

# opes fade for 99 oilmen still missing from North Sea platform

number of dead in the  
oil rig in the North  
risen to 38 with 99  
still missing. Most of  
are feared trapped in

living quarters 100 feet below  
the surface. Rescue opera-  
tions are continuing but there  
is little hope of survivors  
among the trapped men.

Divers are on standby after  
tapping round the rig's legs:  
there was no response. Mr  
Odvar Nordli, the Prime  
Minister of Norway, said the

disaster was one of the  
greatest tragedies in the  
recent history of Norway.  
He promised a committee of  
inquiry would be set up.

## et of ships and helicopters search area round sunken rig

March 28  
ed diving ships are  
by tonight to send  
n to the living quar-  
s oil accommodation  
lexander L. Kielland.  
er of dead in the  
s worst rig disaster  
to 38 with 99 people  
ng.  
Wendt, Chief of  
Stavanger, said that  
the 228 the Phillips  
Company believes on  
on the rig when it  
n gale force winds  
of waves last night.  
ht bodies have been  
here. The fear is that  
e missing have been  
the accommodation  
the 10,105 ton semi-  
rig, which are now  
feet below water.  
5 of the crew are  
a British and about  
span, with a Portu-  
Spanish and three

it refused to give the  
of the dead or the  
although half a  
one are believed to  
spital in Stavanger.  
f the survivors were  
ospital, few with any  
urries, apart from ex-  
id 20 have already  
arged.  
of 45 vessels and 23  
and other aircraft  
is area for survivors  
the chances of any  
found seem slim.  
survivors have been  
sight. Helicopters  
is last few from a  
noon.

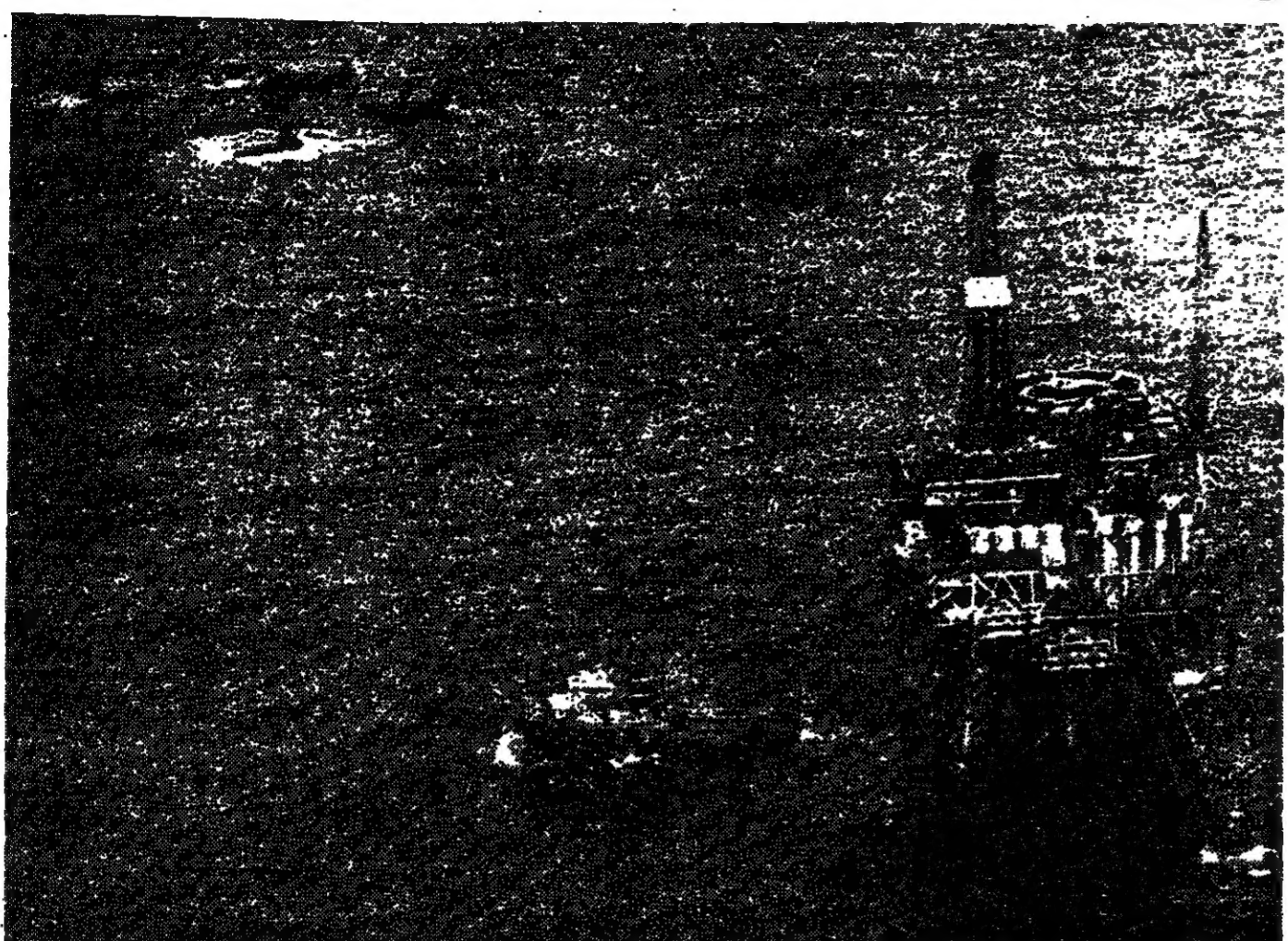
speculation that any  
ard the rig may be  
r pockets. Mr Per  
a spokesman for  
which the rig was  
id: "It isn't easy to  
y high hopes for  
within the Alexander

rafts have already  
g round the four up-  
foot-long, remaining  
platform, but there  
no response. Tele-  
ers have also been  
hundred feet below  
e to look into the  
riers.

survivors are in the  
difficulties are formid-  
- Grosch, aged 41, a  
and supervisor flying  
a Seaway Eagle, one  
e dive support vessels  
a, said: "Honestly it  
me. If anybody was  
et out they would be  
one still inside the  
aid have got hypox-  
way."

accommodation, so  
far below the sur-  
e would be severe  
he said.

or like sitting in an  
boat on the surface  
sch, who has been in  
ice 1965, said he had  
to tackle anything  
There is no blueprint



Four legs of the Alexander Kielland remain afloat (top left) beside the Albuskjell platform.

for dealing with a rig that is  
upside down whatsoever.  
There was talk of people  
being in air pockets and the rig  
being cut open to get them out.  
But he said: "As soon as you  
cut it open, you let the air out.  
We will just have to see what  
the conditions are and what it  
is like."

Tonight six aircraft including  
three from the RAF searched  
until midnight with two long-  
distance surveillance planes  
operating throughout the night.  
Four naval vessels were in the  
area, including the British  
fishery protection vessel HMS  
Lindisfarne, and Mr Wendt  
said that 10 Sea King helicopters  
would continue the search  
tomorrow, two of them from  
Britain.

A spokesman for Phillips said  
that a tug had got a tow rope  
on to the platform, which has  
stabilized in improved weather,  
with the wind down to 15 knots,  
and waves only five to six feet  
high. Weather reports say con-  
ditions will worsen during the  
night.

Phillips also said that a vessel  
last got a line attached to the  
leg that broke off and it was  
now under control. The anchors  
holding the capsized rig in

place were being strengthened,  
to keep it in place.  
Mr Arne Glauhaug, the inspec-  
tor of rescue operations, said the  
temperature in the sea was four  
to six degrees above freezing,  
but anyone in the sea without  
any special protection would  
last only a few minutes.  
"If they have a survival suit  
and are in a lifeboat or some-  
thing like that, the chances of  
surviving are of course, much  
greater."

None of those picked up from  
the water were in survival suits.  
All had been wearing ordinary  
clothing.  
The first survivors were  
pulled from the heaving seas,  
shortly after the accident, in a  
stores basket lowered from the  
Edda platform, which was only  
a short distance from the  
Alexander Kielland.

Mr Bjartmar Gjerd, the Nor-  
wegian Oil Minister, said: "We  
have not given up hope of find-  
ing those who are listed as  
missing."

Sgt Yarwood, aged 33, mar-  
ried with two children from  
Norwood, Cheshire, a veteran  
of 70 rescues, is winchman on  
the helicopter from RAF Boul-  
mer, in Northumberland.

At the other end of the winch  
was Flight Sgt John Moody,  
also 33, married with two  
children from Reading, Berks-  
hire. They found a lifeboat  
with 10 Norwegians and as no  
ship was near decided to winch  
them up.

"It was very difficult to  
maintain the hover. They were  
the worst conditions you could  
get—bad visibility, cross winds,  
high seas, and a very small  
target."

Other reports and photographs  
page 5

## RAF rescue man bravely risks his life

Flight Sergeant Mike Yarwood of the RAF helicopter rescue service was last night being hailed as a hero of the North Sea rescue.

At the other end of the winch was Flight Sgt John Moody, also 33, married with two children from Reading, Berkshire. They found a lifeboat with 10 Norwegians and as no ship was near decided to winch them up.

Mr Odvar Nordli, the Norwegian Prime Minister, said today that a committee of inquiry was to be set up to ensure that such an accident did not happen again.

He said the incident was "one of the greatest tragedies in the recent history of Norway."

Phillips said that they were "mystified" as to why one of the 10,105-ton platform's steel legs broke off.

## Investors hit by heavy falls in silver price

By Anthony Hilton in New York  
and Michael Prest in London

A slump in the price of silver has caused heavy losses and threatened widespread bankruptcies, particularly among investors in America.

The price of silver has fallen this week by about 400p an ounce to under 600p an ounce in London yesterday.

American officials were last night playing down the gravity of the situation, but there were fears that the fall in silver, down from \$50 an ounce in New York at the beginning of the year to about \$13 this week, could herald the onset of a major recession in international business, accompanied by falls in stock markets, in property and in other commodities.

While Mr Robert Willmet, president of the Chicago Board of Trade was saying "things are under control, things are settling down", a London commodity consultant described the events of the last two days as "a major shift in world markets".

At the centre of the drama is Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt, a Texas oil and gas multimillionaire, who for several years has been accumulating enormous holdings of silver. He is now thought to own 200 million ounces or about half a year's normal world production of the metal.

On Tuesday night, as the silver price fell, Mr Hunt, his brother Herbert, and their Arab associates—who are believed to include Prince Abdullah, a leading member of the Saudi Royal family—were asked by their New York brokers to put up "margin", extra cash to cover the fall in value of their silver.

By the end of yesterday, Mr Nelson Hunt had found \$100m, mostly through the sale of shares, but also by disposing of silver futures at the request of his brokers Bache, Halsey, Stuart, Shields. But Mr Hunt is believed still to need another \$100m in margin, and his brother to owe Merrill Lynch, the world's biggest broking firm, \$44m.

A representative for Mr Nelson Hunt, Mr Salim Nassif, said yesterday that Mr Hunt had flown to Riyadh, in Saudi Arabia. It is being reported that Mr Hunt is seeking to raise cash, possibly to buy more silver.

In New York, Bache's shares were suspended for 10 days, while the firm requested that market trading in silver futures—contracted to buy silver some time ahead—be suspended. The request was turned down by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC).

## Wide agreement after Thatcher-Schmidt talks on EEC budget

By Caroline Aikinson  
Mrs Thatcher and Herr  
Helmut Schmidt, the West  
German Chancellor, said yester-  
day that they were now much  
more convinced that a solution  
could be found to the problem  
of Britain's £1,300m contribu-  
tion to the EEC budget.

Addressing a joint press con-  
ference with the Chancellor  
after a day and a half of dis-  
cussions at Chequers, Mrs  
Thatcher implied that there  
would be progress towards a  
solution before the postponed  
EEC summit takes place to-  
wards the end of April.

However, Herr Schmidt empha-  
sized that the solution must  
come with a package of meas-  
ures. This should also deal with  
fishing, lamb, energy policy and  
the reform of the Common  
Agricultural Policy.

So far Mrs Thatcher had al-  
ways held that the British  
budget problem should be treated  
on its own. But yesterday she  
said that the British must con-  
tribute to solving the problems  
of other EEC countries while  
seeking a just solution to their  
own problems.

Nevertheless, the Prime Minister hinted that the budget question should be solved first. She suggested that the outstanding quarrel over fishing, for example, would take longer to deal with. All the EEC problems should be examined at the same time, she said, but they would not neces-  
sarily all be solved together.

Herr Schmidt emphasized that the Germans would not act as mediators in winning French agreement. If there was ill will between Britain and France, they must solve it themselves, he stated.

The Prime Minister said that there was clearly a way of solving the problem of Britain's budget contribution within the Community rules. She suggested that the three weeks before the summit should be used for intensive efforts to reach agreement. All that was needed was good will to attach figures to the method.

This involved three parts. The first was to reduce Britain's gross contribution as agreed at the Dublin summit. At the same time, the reduction of £350m offered by other EEC members was said by Mrs Thatcher to be much too small. However, since then the British have moved towards the idea of securing cuts in their net contribution through increasing

the amount which the EEC  
gives to Britain to spend. This  
was the second part of Mrs  
Thatcher's solution.

The third part involved re-  
forming the Common Agricul-  
tural Policy. This took a much  
larger proportion of the Com-  
munity budget than was ever  
intended, the Prime Minister  
said. Herr Schmidt agreed that  
the growth in agricultural sub-  
sidies had to be checked.

He pointed out that this was  
not in Germany's interest and  
commented that he expected  
the agricultural ministers of  
the Nine to have grave misgiv-  
ings about any changes.

Herr Schmidt did not give  
details of what he meant by  
linking energy policy with the  
solution of other EEC difficul-  
ties. The Germans may be  
looking for a commitment that  
Britain will not lead the way  
with oil price rises and will be  
willing to earmark oil for  
Europe if there are supply  
problems in the future.

Both leaders dwelt on the  
good will and atmosphere of  
understanding surrounding their  
talks. Mrs Thatcher said that  
they and the two foreign  
ministers, Herr Genscher and  
Lord Carrington, had stayed up  
until two am yesterday morn-  
ing discussing world affairs.  
Herr Schmidt said that he and  
Mrs Thatcher had had a grad-  
uating degree of understanding.  
Both leaders said that the  
Western alliance must stick  
together. The Germans in par-  
ticular have been worried about  
disputes within the EEC at a  
time when the West was faced  
with other big problems, such  
as a possible collapse in the  
process of East-West détente.

It seems increasingly unlikely  
that Britain will decide to join  
the European Monetary System  
of fixed exchange rates in the  
near future. Even the Foreign  
Office is now thought to be  
convinced that with the present  
strength of the pound it would  
be damaging for Britain to go  
in now. However, the Treasury  
ministers may have modified  
their complete opposition to  
entry and may be willing to  
agree in principle to join at  
some later date.

The Prime Minister said yester-  
day that this could come  
only after the Government had  
proved that it was committed  
to its money supply targets and  
had fulfilled them.

## Carabinieri kill four in anti-terrorist raid

From John Searle  
Rome, March 28  
The Italian authorities  
claimed to have slain an  
important blow to the Red  
Brigades in Genoa after they  
killed four suspected terrorists,  
including a woman, in a gun  
battle during a raid on a flat  
before dawn today. One mem-  
ber of the carabinieri was  
wounded.

The incident was part of a  
wider operation by carabinieri  
in north-west Italy, in which  
six arrests were made in raids  
on houses in Turin and Biella  
in Piedmont.

Britons, mainly in the areas of  
Bologna and Catania.  
The Britons' names have been  
given as Helen Jane Wein, aged  
34, who was arrested in Catania;  
and Mark Holton, aged 21,  
or 22, from Hull University, and  
Kenneth Burgon, aged 31, of  
North Berwick, who were held  
for questioning. Mr Holton was  
teaching English at a school in  
Bologna.

An official statement said  
that carabinieri wearing hel-  
mets and bullet-proof waistcoats  
were fired on today when they  
entered what was described as  
a "Red Brigade hideout".  
[A list of 3,000 prominent  
Italians, apparently marked for  
murder, was found in the flat,  
UPI reports.]

## he found old Cup ner

al Phillips  
ortage, the Irish horse  
on the Cheltenham  
two weeks ago, was  
d rope after the race  
hours after the  
two other Irish-trained  
the meeting were also

as announced by Mr  
miles, chief security  
the Jockey Club, yes-  
day 24 hours after the  
had suspended two  
keys, Tommy Ryan and  
e, from race riding for  
nths, for excessive use  
ship at the Cheltenham

outine tests revealed  
of theophorine. The  
er Irish horses were  
ah, winner of another  
nable Cheltenham race,  
an Elizabeth the Queen  
Champion Steeple-  
and Kilikwell, who  
third in the Kim Muir  
Challenge Cup.

Cottage is ruined by  
Moore; the other two  
ick O'Toole. Both men  
was the most respected  
profession, with long  
successes behind them,  
ey are able to prove at  
key Club inquiry that  
they nor their staff had  
ly administered the  
beir names will auto-  
y be cleared. Otherwise  
ill be liable to severe

three horses will au-  
y be disqualified be-  
he drug, "a forbidden  
ce" has been found in  
stem. All bets, however,  
nd.

acent years traces of  
mine had been found in  
as the result of some-  
y had eaten.  
nuts are usually to  
but in one case even a  
ar was the cause. The  
of the three Irish horses  
ain be to blame.  
t surprise Mr O'Toole,  
ains at Kildare, said  
continued on page 16, col 6

## Pay deal saves Easter flights

The dispute between local authorities and the National and Local Government Officers Association (NALGO) ended when the union accepted a 13 per cent pay offer. It means that the threat to Easter air travel has been lifted and the disruption of local council's finances will cease. Rate demands, which have been halted in many areas, will start going out on Monday; rent collections will also return to normal. Pay increases range from £189 a year to £1,716. Page 2

## Pretoria feels isolated

Mr Robert Mugabe's decision to exclude South Africa from Zimbabwe's independence celebrations has made Pretoria aware that, despite the efforts of Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, to implement his concept of "a constellation of states", the country is still isolated. Page 4

## Callaghan tour queried

An argument has developed within the Labour Party's national executive committee over a planned two-week visit to China by Mr James Callaghan. The political wisdom of the trip and the financing of the party who will accompany him are being questioned. Page 2

## Lead risk action urged

A government report on the effect of lead on health has reached no firm conclusion that lead from petrol fumes impairs the intelligence of children. Urgent action by the Government is recommended to reduce the poisoning risk in certain areas. Page 3

## Cheaper food imports escape special tax

British consumers will continue to benefit from cheaper food imports, as a result of the sterling exchange rate. EEC ministers of agriculture refused a demand by Mr Walker, their British colleague, to amend the rules and impose from next week a special import tax and export subsidy to help British farmers. Page 3

## US banks raise rates

Major American banks raised their prime lending rates to new record levels yesterday, fixing rates of either 19 1/4 or 19 1/2 per cent. The latest increases are being attributed to the continuing high demand for credit and to tighter credit policies imposed by the Federal Reserve Board. Page 17

## Marijuana health risks

A report by the American Health Department links the long term use of marijuana with general deterioration in health. It also finds the drug is being used by a growing number of young people. Page 4

Kelly inquest: Policeman admitted hitting the Liverpool labourer who died in custody, QC for Police Federation says. 2

Ark Royal's fate: Ministry of Defence announces that the 30,000-ton aircraft carrier will be sold for scrap. 2

"Ban drug" call: MP seeks the suspension of Debenham by Department of Health. 3

Egypt: Last Jews in Alexandria await visit by Israeli leaders. 4

Chad: Red Cross tries to arrange truce as rival armies reinforce. 4

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 23, 24; Home and Gardens, 23; Postal Shopping, 23; Appointments, 10

conclude week with two Tidesway records. Boxing: Srikumar Sen previews John Cornish's world title fight. Business News, pages 17-21

Stock markets: E: Equities continued to drift lower along with gilts affected by recent Budget proposals and Wall St. The FT Index fell 1.6 to 421.5

10 Law Report 10 Sat Review 6-11 TV & Radio 9

14 Letters 14 Science 14 Theatre, etc 8

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12 Records review 7 Snow reports 15 Weather 14

11 Sale Room 14 Sport 15, 16 Wills 14

## Welsh arsonists aim at Tory party offices

From Tim Jones  
Cardiff  
Security precautions at key Government buildings in Wales are to be strengthened after two fire bomb attacks yesterday on Conservative Party offices in the principality.

For the first time the arson-  
ists struck in South Wales when  
they made an unsuccessful  
attack on the party's Wales  
area office in Cardiff.

Their second bomb, placed  
outside the headquarters of the  
East Glam constituency party at  
Shotton, went off but caused  
little damage. The offices rep-  
resented a new target for the  
extremists, who had concen-  
trated on burning isolated hol-  
iday homes.

In another new departure the  
extremists telephoned the  
police at Cardiff, telling them  
that the devices had been  
planted. The call came five  
hours after the Shotton bomb  
had exploded.

A letter received yesterday  
by the BBC in Cardiff, which  
had been posted in the city on  
Thursday afternoon, claimed  
responsibility for both inci-  
dents.

Written on a sheet of paper  
torn out of a notebook, the  
letter said: "The Tory offices  
were attacked because of the  
steel and coal closures. As with  
second bombs, Wales is under  
attack."

"We call on Welsh people to  
resist the British Government

and its lackeys who care  
nothing for us. The enemies of  
Wales will not close our vital  
industries without a fight. Be  
warned."

It was signed: "Free Wales  
Cymru am Bŵl (Wales for  
Ever)".

It is similar in tone to another  
letter being examined by police  
which purports to come from  
Mudiad Amddiffyn Cymru  
(Movement for the Defence of  
Wales), which says: "We hope  
the present campaign will in-  
spire steel workers and miners  
and everyone else in Wales  
whose jobs and futures are  
being threatened so terribly".

In Cardiff the police cordoned  
off the Tory offices and the offices  
and disposal squads removed  
the incendiary device which  
consisted of a petrol tin con-  
nected by wire running through  
inflammable material to a bat-  
tery and a clock.

Det Chief Supt Viv Brooke,  
head of the South Wales CID,  
said: "The device was not  
sophisticated but it was danger-  
ous. These people may con-  
sider themselves to be politi-  
cally motivated but neverthe-  
less we shall be treating it as  
a criminal act."

Mr Victor Simpson, the Con-  
servative Party's deputy agent  
for Wales, said: "We realized  
there was a possibility that the  
political extremists behind the  
arson campaign might turn  
their attention to political  
parties."

## Domestic air fares to rise

Rises in domestic air fares  
from April 1 were approved  
last night by the Civil Aviation  
Authority. The increases aver-  
age about 12.5 per cent on  
single economy fares.

British Airways' fares from  
London to Glasgow and Edin-  
burgh will rise by £5, to £47,  
and to Belfast by £5, to £43.  
The single fare from London to  
Inverness will go up by £3, to  
£56.

fares from London's Gatwick  
Airport to Glasgow and Edin-  
burgh will be £49.

The British Midland fare  
from Gatwick to Belfast, at £39,  
will be 25 cheaper than British  
airways' route from Heathrow  
airport.

The aviation authority said  
the increases were necessary  
because of rising costs, particu-  
larly for fuel and airport  
charges.

# The Royal Opera

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11, 14, 17, 22, 25, 28 April at 7.30 pm

## LA Fanciulla DEL WEST

"Puccini's Minnie, gun-toting girl of the West keeps a bunch of unruly gold prospectors under her comely and commanding control. I doubt if any opera house in Europe has the right to be prouder of a production than The Royal Opera of this one. It should be heard and seen by all who can buy or beg a ticket"

Alan Blyth, Daily Telegraph

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## HOME NEWS

## Settlement of local authority pay dispute means lifting of threat to air travel over Easter

By David Felton  
Labour Reporter

The dispute involving 550,000 white-collar local authority workers was called off last night after a 13 per cent pay offer was accepted by the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO).

Negotiators immediately gave warning that they would be pressing for a further 20 per cent pay rise in July.

The settlement averted a strike by air traffic controllers at municipal airports over Easter. It also means that rate demands, which have been halted in many areas, will start going out from Monday.

Rent collection, which has been disrupted in some areas, will also return to normal. The union had also threatened a strike among meat inspectors in abattoirs.

The deal with NALGO was struck within half an hour yesterday, after day-long talks on Wednesday led the employers to increase their offer on comparability payments from an average 8 per cent to 13 per cent. The union had been

claiming 14 per cent. The offer will be backdated to January 1.

Increases range from 9.5 per cent, or £189 a year, for a new entrant aged 16 doing clerical work, to 18 per cent or £1,716 a year for some chief officers and departmental heads.

Mr Sidney Dennett, chairman of the employers' side, said: "To local government this is an expensive settlement at a time when there is great pressure on public spending."

"If local government is spending at a faster rate than there is money flowing in, then there are grave problems ahead. So much of local government expenditure is concerned with staff costs, so there is a direct relationship to the numbers of staff employed."

It was, he added, too early to say whether there would be any job losses as a result of the settlement, which is in addition to the 9.4 per cent the workers received as the first part of their annual deal last July. But Mr Brian Rusbridge, secretary of the employers' side, said there were three options for

recovering the cost: extra rates, reduced services, and increased efficiency which meant job staff reductions.

Mr Rusbridge thought the settlement was fair and just and that the dispute had caused a relatively small amount of damage because it had been stopped so quickly.

A warning about the battle ahead in the summer on the next pay round was sounded by Mr Alan Jenkinson, NALGO's national officer. He said the difficulty would arise when the union tried to keep pace with the rate of inflation, which would be about 20 per cent, at a time when the Government had set a 13 per cent cash limit for local government.

One difficulty on the horizon is the decision by council chief executives to reject an offer of about 8 per cent for comparability. However, with chief officers having negotiated a 17 per cent settlement and yesterday's 13 per cent deal, it is difficult to see how the employers can do anything but offer a similar deal to the chief executives.

## Police officer admitted hitting James Kelly

From David Nicholson-Lord

One of the police officers who arrested James Kelly, the Liverpool man who died in police custody last year, has admitted that he hit him "three or four times" in the head at the inquest on Mr Kelly yesterday.

The acknowledgment came from Mr George Carman, QC, representing the Police Federation and the four officers involved in the arrest during his examination of Mr Laurence Hooley, who said the police gave Mr Kelly a "good going over".

Mr Carman said the officer accepted that he had hit Mr Kelly when he was on the ground because Mr Kelly was kicking him and hitting out, violently resisting arrest.

Mr Hooley, of Barketh Road, Huyton, a labourer and former soldier who served in Aden and Northern Ireland, told the coroner and the 12-man jury that he saw the police officer punching Mr Kelly. Later, cross-examined by Mr Andrew Rankin, QC, for the Chief Constable of Merseyside, he agreed he did not see the blows "actually landing" and at one point saw only the movement of the officer's hand.

He agreed with the statement made a week after the arrest to solicitors representing the Kelly family, in which he said he had a clear view as the police car drove on to the waste ground right up to Mr Kelly and knocked him over.

He said: "Mr Kelly was standing up, staggering a bit and the car approached him. It touched him just enough to knock him on the floor."

Two policemen got out of the car and one of them in uniform, said to Mr Kelly: "All right sunshine, what's your game? Come on, get in the car."

One of the police officers pushed Mr Kelly's head down to get him inside the car and said: "Get in you bastards." He punched Mr Kelly on the back of his head.

Mr Hooley said he saw Mr Kelly sprawling inside the car trying to crawl out. He added: "When he was halfway out the policeman in uniform started to punch him again. Mr Kelly collapsed on the ground beside the car and the uniformed policeman gave him a good going over, punching away at him around the head."

"Mr Kelly was groaning and swearing at the policeman all the time. When the officer finished hitting him he was sitting over Mr Kelly holding him down."

Cross-examined by Mr Rankin about a statement he had made to the police two days after the arrest, Mr Hooley agreed that he was mistaken when he had told the coroner he did not see a punch thrown by Mr Kelly.

He had said in his statement that he had seen Mr Kelly hit the car, but he said he was not sure whether the officer was pushing or punching Mr Kelly to get him into the car.

In a submission at the start of the hearing, Mr Carman said that a complaint by Mr Rankin about the disclosure of privileged discussions between counsel was the result of an innocent misunderstanding.

"I had understood it to be on a privileged basis," he said.

He said: "Mr Kelly was standing up, staggering a bit and the car approached him. It touched him just enough to knock him on the floor."

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He said: "Mr Kelly was standing up, staggering a bit and the car approached him. It touched him just enough to knock him on the floor."

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One of the police officers pushed Mr Kelly's head down to get him inside the car and said: "Get in you bastards." He punched Mr Kelly on the back of his head.

Mr Hooley said he saw Mr Kelly sprawling inside the car trying to crawl out. He added: "When he was halfway out the policeman in uniform started to punch him again. Mr Kelly collapsed on the ground beside the car and the uniformed policeman gave him a good going over, punching away at him around the head."

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## Police officer admitted hitting James Kelly

From David Nicholson-Lord

One of the police officers who arrested James Kelly, the Liverpool man who died in police custody last year, has admitted that he hit him "three or four times" in the head at the inquest on Mr Kelly yesterday.

The acknowledgment came from Mr George Carman, QC, representing the Police Federation and the four officers involved in the arrest during his examination of Mr Laurence Hooley, who said the police gave Mr Kelly a "good going over".

Mr Carman said the officer accepted that he had hit Mr Kelly when he was on the ground because Mr Kelly was kicking him and hitting out, violently resisting arrest.

Mr Hooley, of Barketh Road, Huyton, a labourer and former soldier who served in Aden and Northern Ireland, told the coroner and the 12-man jury that he saw the police officer punching Mr Kelly. Later, cross-examined by Mr Andrew Rankin, QC, for the Chief Constable of Merseyside, he agreed he did not see the blows "actually landing" and at one point saw only the movement of the officer's hand.

He agreed with the statement made a week after the arrest to solicitors representing the Kelly family, in which he said he had a clear view as the police car drove on to the waste ground right up to Mr Kelly and knocked him over.

He said: "Mr Kelly was standing up, staggering a bit and the car approached him. It touched him just enough to knock him on the floor."

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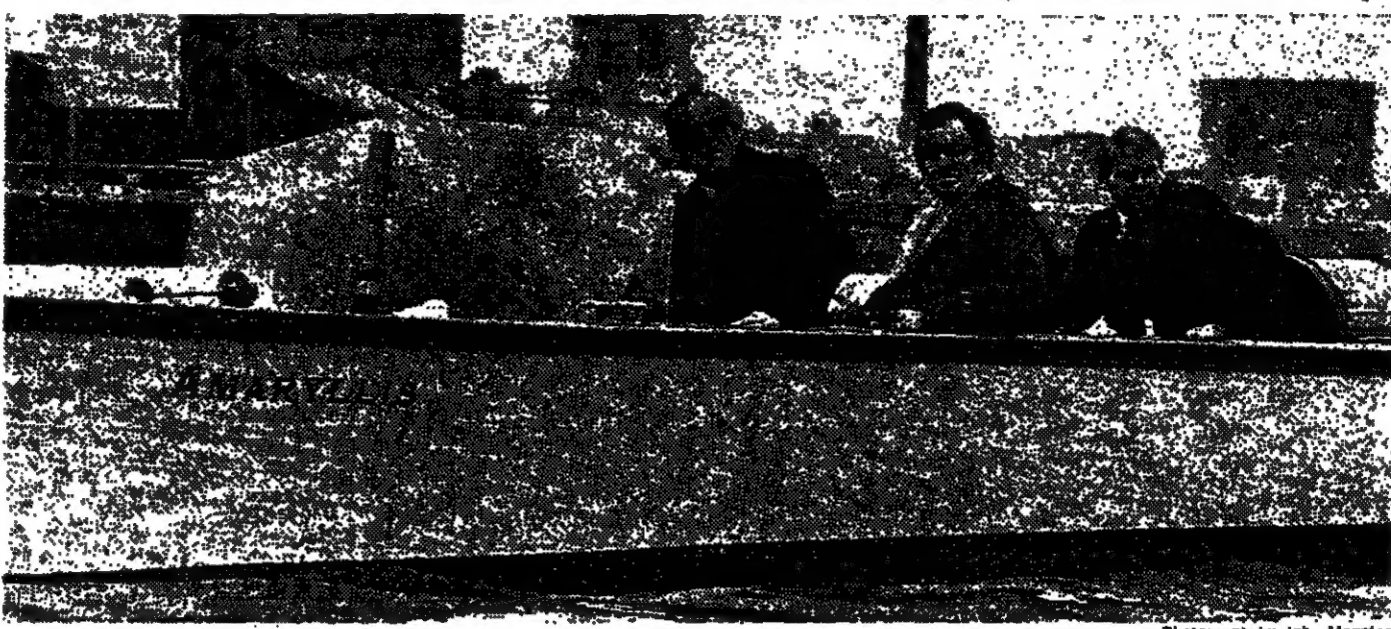
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The Duke of Edinburgh watching the Cambridge University Boat Race crew training yesterday at Putney for next Saturday's annual Thames race.

## A famous fighting ship that never fired in anger

By Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent

The Ark Royal, which never fired in anger during 35 years' service with the fleet, has finally lost its battle for survival.

The Ministry of Defence has decided that the aircraft carrier, of 50,000 tons, the biggest British warship of its generation, is to be sold for scrap.

This ends 16 months of indecision since the Ark was paid off in December, 1978, during which time the ministry has evaluated a number of proposals from hopeful entrepreneurs who have wanted to save the ship from the scrapyard. The number was whittled down to about three serious propositions, which included a scheme to anchor the vessel at Greenwich, as a floating museum and monument for an age which the Royal Navy will never quite relive.

It has been haunted, as always, by the fear that the famous vessel might become in a few years a rusting hulk, the funds and enthusiasm of her new owners exhausted.

HMS Eagle, the last aircraft carrier to be broken up, fetched more than £1m as scrap in 1977, and the Navy expects to

receive substantially more than that for the Ark Royal, if only because of inflation.

For the past 10 months the ship, its engines, equipment and fittings removed, has been moored in Plymouth harbour, to the same buoy occupied by Eagle before its last voyage to the breaker's yard.

Not the least of those sorry to see it go will be Plymouth boatmen, who have taken countless holidaymakers on a "trip round Ark Royal" at 50p a time.

The Navy will not be long without a warship of the same famous name. The latest to be ordered at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday was to be sent to Portlaoine prison, the republic's high security jail.

Last November, the Special Criminal Court imposed a 10-year jail sentence on Mr McGinn, aged 23, of Castleblaney, Co Monaghan, in his absence, when he failed to arrive for the final day of his trial on explosives charges.

The Irish police acting on information, raided a house in Dundalk on Tuesday to arrest Mr McGinn.

He had a hand grenade and stayed inside with his cousin, his husband and baby daughter. More than 24 hours later, Mr McGinn agreed to give himself up, on the orders of the Provisional IRA.

## Bill allows for strikers' benefits to be reduced by up to £16 a week

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

Supplementary benefits for the families of strikers will be cut by up to £16 a week under the Social Security (No 2) Bill, published yesterday. But price protection for short-term benefits and invalidity pensions will not be permanently abolished.

The £16 reduction for strikers' families will be made up partly by the automatic £12 deduction from the family's supplementary benefits as part of the Budget measures. In addition, the present disregard of £4 a week of any tax rebates will be abolished under the Bill, which will also allow the £12 figure to be shared up or down in the future.

The minority of steel strikers now receiving supplementary benefits for their families are getting £21.70 a week. The Bill would reduce the maximum benefit to around £5 a week on present rates, for a family with two children.

able to answer correctly. Yet 30 per cent of patients with damage in the right side of their brains were able to give the correct answer.

The test was given to 20 patients with right hemisphere brain damage. 20 patients with left hemisphere brain damage, and a control group of 20 neurological patients with no known brain damage.

Six of those with right hemisphere damage had "complete insight" into the problem (30 per cent), compared with only one with left hemisphere damage (5 per cent), and none in the control group.

When the same test was given to patients receiving electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) treatment, Dr Golding found that 25 per cent gained complete insight immediately after ECT treatment, while none was able

to answer the test correctly before treatment.

Dr Golding's earlier studies had indicated that once a card had been incorrectly selected, subjects remained highly resistant to the correct solution. It appeared that the visual aspects of the task interfered with verbal reasoning.

She postulated that visual skills, known to be predominantly located in the right side of the brain, inhibited the verbal skills of interference, thought to be predominantly located in the left side of the brain.

Her latest findings upheld her hypothesis that patients with brain damage in the right hemisphere would perform better on the four-card problem than patients with left hemisphere damage or the control group. The ECT study tended to validate that finding.

## Judgment later on claim by former prisoner

The hearing of a damages claim by Mr Michael Williams, a former prisoner, over the treatment he received in a special control unit at Wakefield prison, ended in the High Court yesterday. After a five-week hearing, Mr Justice Tudor Evans reserved judgment until a date to be fixed.

Mr Williams was one of the first inmates of a special control unit set up at Wakefield jail in 1974 to curb disruptive prisoners. He spent 180 days in the unit, 30 of them in solitary confinement.

He is claiming damages for alleged unlawful imprisonment in the unit which, he says, broke prison rules by its emphasis on isolation. His claim is contested by the Home Office.

Pressure is low over the North Sea and high to the SW and all parts lie in a fresh NW airstream. Forecasts from 6 am to midnight: London, central S. England, central N. England, Midlands, Wales, SE England, East Angles: Cloud and rain clearing, sunny intervals; wind W, strong to gale, veering NW, fresh, max temp 8° to 9° C (46° to 48° F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, showers near W and N, factors clear; NW, heavy at times; wind N, strong, backing NW, moderate to fresh; max temp 6° to 7° C (43° to 45° F). Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

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Security jail for IRA siege man

Bernard McGinn, the IRA man at the centre of the siege in Dundalk, Republic of Ireland, earlier this week, was ordered at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday to be sent to Portlaoine prison, the republic's high security jail.

Last November, the Special Criminal Court imposed a 10-year jail sentence on Mr McGinn, aged 23, of Castleblaney, Co Monaghan, in his absence, when he failed to arrive for the final day of his trial on explosives charges.

The Irish police acting on information, raided a house in Dundalk on Tuesday to arrest Mr McGinn.

He had a hand grenade and stayed inside with his cousin, his husband and baby daughter. More than 24 hours later, Mr McGinn agreed to give himself up, on the orders of the Provisional IRA.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded

Today Sun rises: 6.43 am. Moon sets: 6.11 am. Full moon: March 31.

Lighting out: 7.59 pm to 6.10 am. High water: London Bridge, 1.32 am, 6.58 am, 1.29 pm, 7.00 am. Low water: 7.7 am, 12.0 pm, 7.31 pm, 12.3 pm, Dover, 11.17 am, 5.9 pm, 11.23 pm, 6.2 pm, Hull, 6.5 am, 6.5 pm, 6.12 pm, 6.6 pm, Liverpool, 11.16 am, 6.3 pm, 11.54 pm, 6.8 pm.

Tomorrow Sun rises: 6.40 am. Moon sets: 6.34 am. Full moon: Tomorrow.

Lighting out: 8.1 pm to 6.8 am. High water: London Bridge, 2.14 am, 6.5 pm, 2.37 pm, 7.12 am. Low water: 7.43 am, 12.4 pm, 8.4 pm, 12.6 pm, Dover, 11.45 am, 6.1 pm, 11.54 pm, 6.3 pm, Hull, 6.40 am, 6.8 pm, 6.46 pm, 6.9 pm, Liverpool, 11.42 am, 6.8 pm, 11.49 pm, 6.8 pm.

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Sunny intervals, showers, heavy near W and N, factors clear; NW, temp 7° to 9° C (45° to 48° F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Shetland: Sunny intervals, showers near W and N, factors clear; NW, wind N, backing NW, strong to gale; max temp 6° to 9° C (43° to 46° F).

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£17m aid for Liverpool regeneration

From Our Correspondent

The Liverpool Partnership Committee, a joint project between the Government and the city council, is to receive a £17m grant for the next 12 months to assist in the regeneration of the inner city area.

The committee, one of five inner-city committees set up by a Labour Government, will receive two more grants, each of £250,000, one for existing programmes, the other for voluntary schemes.

The details were announced in Liverpool yesterday by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary after he had chaired the fourth meeting of the committee since he took office.

Four projects are to receive special attention: the Chinese Community Centre; the restoration of the Empire Theatre; the Maritime Park project on the waterfront at its pier head; and cycle lanes in the Toxteth and Vauxhall districts.

open to the public from 6 pm daily (except Mon from April to September), Monday closing door apply on Bank Holiday; during the months of 7 and September.

Manor for nation, p

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## HOME NEWS

## Demand for action at 'black spots' to cut health risk from lead

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

A Department of Health working party on the effect of lead on health has been unable to find conclusive, unambiguous evidence that small amounts of lead in petrol impair the intelligence and behaviour of children.

In its report, published yesterday, the group recommends urgent action by the Government to combat certain black spots in Britain where there is a need to reduce the risk of lead from water pipes and storage tanks, domestic paint surfaces, and traffic and industrial air pollution.

The working party, composed of eminent physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists and research scientists, was chaired by Professor P. J. Lawther, of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

Its conclusions, however, do not answer two of the central questions that were the reason for the investigation.

The introduction to the report says that the main question facing the group was the possibility that subtle adverse effects in health and development result from the absorption of lead in smaller quantities than those known to give symptoms of lead poisoning. Recent reports suggest that lead might interfere with mental development or cause behavioural disorders in children.

The experts conclude that, although suggestive, the evidence is equivocal and difficult to assess.

The other unanswered question is how much of the 10,000 tonnes of lead put in petrol each year returns to our bodies.

The group's recommendations emphasise the need for increased monitoring and for improvement in test procedures to measure the possible effects on children that can be attributed to exposure to lead as distinct from other poor environmental factors.

Priorities for action are urged in areas with high levels of lead in tap water, where chemical treatment is insufficient. It is necessary, old lead plumbing should be replaced or replaced, especially where tap water may be used in infants' feeds. People in those houses should avoid using the first run-off water for drinking.

Investigations of the lead levels in old paint coatings accessible to young children, especially in depressed city areas, is another matter of urgency, the report says.

A progressive reduction of lead emission from traffic and industrial sources should be undertaken. In places where exposure is continuous and prolonged, special measures are needed to keep the annual mean concentration of lead in the air below two micrograms a cubic metre.

The report contains a special



Parents parading with an anti-lead poster in Whitehall yesterday.

list of recommendations for improved research and monitoring. In particular, the report found blood level to be over 35 micrograms a decilitre should be followed up to trace the source of exposure.

That tiny concentration of lead in blood is below the level at which overt lead poisoning can be clearly diagnosed. However, the experts have agreed that there is no convincing evidence of deleterious effects below 35 micrograms a decilitre. Symptoms of lead poisoning and brain damage occur with levels in excess of, say, 80 micrograms a decilitre.

Therefore a doubt is said to remain in the range of blood lead concentrations between 35 and 80 micrograms a decilitre. But there is no information from research to underpin the choice of the level of lead below which damage can be discounted.

"Cover-up" charge: Housewives belonging to the Parents Against Lead group picketed the Royal United Services Institute in Whitehall yesterday to voice their discontent at the report, which they described as a waste of public money (the Press Association reports).

In a statement they said the working party was "a transparent attempt to cover up and serve the interests of the oil companies well". They asked why it had omitted studies of foetal damage, stillbirths and neonatal deaths.

Lead and Health (Stationery Office, £4.50).

Leading article, page 13

## MP seeks Debendox ban after US verdict

By Annabel Ferriman  
Health Services Correspondent

A call for the suspension of Debendox, the pill for morning sickness, which was held responsible for an American boy being born with physical defects, was made yesterday by Mr David Ennals, Labour MP for Norwich, North, and former secretary of State for Social Services.

Mr Ennals said that he found extraordinary that the company which made the drug did not think that the court verdict in Orlando, Florida, that the drug caused the boy's defects, impugned the drug's safety.

"Last week the jury unanimously concluded that Debendox was unsafe and has caused the child's deformities and had awarded \$20,000 (about £9,000) to cover the boy's medical expenses, not the \$12m compensation the plaintiffs had sought."

"Extraordinarily the firm insisted that the verdict did not impugn the drug's safety. The court's verdict is not important to our assessment of the safety of the drug," they said, Mr Ennals said.

"The attitude of the Department of Health and Social Security is no less puzzling. A spokesman said last Saturday the mere fact of the verdict does not make that much

differences. The Committee on the Safety of Medicines will wish to study the evidence and give their views when they feel the time is right."

"In my view that is intolerably complacent after the ruling of the court in Florida. In my view Mr Patrick Jenkin should suspend the use of Debendox in Britain until there has been a thorough review of all the evidence by the Committee on the Safety of Medicines. To do otherwise would, in my view, be irresponsible."

Mr Ennals, who was speaking at a conference of the society for Drug Research at Kent University, said that in spite of the Thalidomide tragedy, the taking of non-essential drugs during pregnancy had not decreased in the last 10 years.

"A survey published in 1977 indicated that in Britain doctors prescribed drugs for 56 per cent of women in the first three months of pregnancy, and an astounding 97 per cent of women received some sort of medication during the nine months."

"I sometimes think we have gone pill mad in Britain. The public seem to believe that there is a pill for every ill and that no one should go along with the theory. The quickest way to end a consultation is to write out a prescription."

## Action by Sir Peter Scott settled

Settlement of a court action by Sir Peter Scott, the naturalist, against the author and publishers of a book about his father, Captain Robert Falcon Scott, the explorer, was announced yesterday by Sir Peter's solicitors.

Sir Peter issued a High Court writ last September seeking an injunction restraining Hodder and Stoughton, the publishers, from publishing Scott and Amundsen, by Roland Huntford.

about the race to the South Pole in 1912. He also claimed damages for libel and breach of contract and for infringement of copyright and conversion.

His solicitors said yesterday that Mr Huntford had agreed to make a donation to a charity of Sir Peter's choice and make a payment to him for his costs.

It had also been agreed that library copies and any future editions of the book would contain a statement by the author saying that material made avail-

able by Sir Peter "must under no circumstances be interpreted as approval of anything in the book, from which he totally dissociates himself and which he did not, moreover, see before printing."

The statement would say that Mr Huntford did not accept that he had denigrated Captain Scott, "but I greatly regret any distress that my treatment of the subject has caused to Sir Peter or others."

"We have to realize that the problem of the starving, crying, pot-bellied African child in the Christmas poster will be solved not just by soft hearts but also by hard heads and tough thinking and a readiness to ask awkward questions," he said.

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## WEST EUROPE

## Ambassador defends commitment to Europe

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, March 28

Sir Reginald Hibbert, the British Ambassador, described as "highly artificial" and unjust the accusations being bandied about in France that Britain was not fully committed to the European Community.

In a vigorous speech at a luncheon given in his honour by M. Pierre Fimlin, the Mayor of Strasbourg, the Ambassador emphasized that "at present Britain honours the undertakings she contracted under the Treaty of Rome, and submits scrupulously to all the obligations arising from it. . . she makes her full contributions to the life and work of the Community."

Though Britain had contributed decisively to the defence of Europe for 30 years, participated actively in the work of the Council of Europe, of Nato, of the EEC, of the European Assembly, and in the political cooperation of the Nine, "none of all this can, it seems, earn us the qualification of 'European' if we dare to demand that the budget of the Community should function equitably," he said.

Britain's position was simply that the burden of Community resources should be more equitably distributed. "It is absurd to pretend that the mere fact of drawing attention to this problem is in some way anti-European," he said.

Sir Reginald went on to say that none of the expressions such as "Community preference", "unity of price", "Community waters", and "own resources" had an absolute value or, in practice, a precise significance. Yet in recent weeks, they had been bandied as though they were graven in stone.

The Ambassador speaking later about the recent burning of the Union Jack in front of the European Parliament said: "It is not France which set fire to the flag, but a few farmers who wanted in this way to express their feelings."

## Cheaper food imports survive efforts to impose special tax

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, March 28

British consumers will continue to benefit from cheaper food imports as a result of the appreciation of the pound on foreign exchange markets, but they do not have Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, to thank for this relief.

Mr Walker tried yesterday to get a change in the rules of the EEC's complex "green" currency system which would have led to the imposition from the beginning of next week of a tax on food imports into Britain to offset the rising value of the pound.

Sterling's appreciation, Mr Walker claimed, had put British food exporters at a disadvantage compared with their continental competitors, and he wanted the immediate application of an import tax and export subsidy to correct this.

Under the rules the tax would not come into effect until the pound had risen at least 2.5 per cent above the artificial "green" rate used for translating the EEC's common farm prices (fixed in units of account) into sterling. At present the pound is just below that level.

Other member states refused

to accede to Mr Walker's demands last night. He retaliated by refusing to agree to the renewal of the rules. But a spokesman for the European Commission said today that despite this the rules would continue to operate.

If the pound rose any higher than 2.5 per cent above its "green" rate the import tax would come into effect automatically. In that event, it would be open to Mr Walker to request a revaluation of the "green" pound to raise it to the real level of sterling and thus eliminate the tax. But Mr Walker said last night he had no intention of doing that.

EEC officials are surprised by Mr Walker's attitude which contradicts years of British complaints about the penalties imposed on the consumer by the common agricultural policy to the advantage of farmers and traders.

EEC ministers of agriculture failed yesterday to make any progress towards fixing Community farm prices for 1980-81. Mr Walker wants a freeze on products in surplus, such as milk, sugar and wine, while others are pushing for an overall price rise of between 4 and 5 per cent.

## Late April date likely for EEC summit

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, March 28

The postponed EEC summit meeting, which was to have been held on Monday and Tuesday in Brussels, is now likely to take place in Luxembourg on April 26-27 or April 27-28.

The meeting is of crucial importance to Britain because the main subject will be Mrs Thatcher's claim for a reduction in the estimated £1,100m net British contribution to the EEC Budget.

A decision on the date is expected to be announced over the weekend by the Italian Government, which holds the EEC presidency.

## Court postpones ruling on French lamb ban

By Hugh Clayton  
Agriculture Correspondent

The European Court of Justice ruled yesterday against an interim injunction which would force France to drop restrictions against imports of British lamb. The news was greeted by the Ministry of Agriculture in London with a curt statement that France should nevertheless obey Community law immediately.

The court ruled last September that French bans on British lamb imports were illegal. The court has now followed the advice early this week of Signor Francesco Caporot, Advocate-General of the EEC, who decides that an injunction might prejudice the definitive ruling which is expected from the court later.

## In brief

## No action over toll complaint

The Director of Public Prosecutions has decided to take no action over alleged discrepancies in the electric toll charges at Mr Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Gloucester, Mrs Oppenheim said yesterday: "I never had any doubt that we would be vindicated. A great deal of public time and money has been wasted because of this mud-slinging exercise by the Labour Party."

## Dog disease inquiry

The Powys area health authority is to investigate a disease, which is transmitted to humans by dogs, in the Powys area after a number of cases had been identified.

## Two Ulster deaths

A Northern Ireland policeman and a woman traffic warden were found shot dead in a car near Newry, Co. Down yesterday. Police said they were not looking for any third party.

## Trains diverted

Paddington and South Wales trains will be diverted this weekend because of engineering works, British Rail Western region announced yesterday.

## Questions over death

Three women were questioned by police yesterday after the body of Mrs Thomas, 40, was found in her home in Tasegla Avenue, Bradford.

## Survey shows almost half of new cars had defects

By Robin Young  
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Almost half the buyers of new cars in a survey, carried out by the Office of Fair Trading, claimed to have found faults in their car on delivery, the Director-General of Fair Trading revealed yesterday.

Mr Gordon Borrie told a trade seminar that motorists were still not being given a fair deal. He announced that the motor trade associations had agreed to strengthen the code of practice originally launched in February, 1976, but gave them a warning that unless "a great deal more" was done to enforce compliance the trade would be brought under legislative control.

He described the results of the Office of Fair Trading's survey among new car-buyers last year as "disappointing". More than one-sixth of those who responded to the survey claimed that their new car had been delivered by dealers with damage to the bodywork or paintwork. Two-fifths claimed their car had other faults on delivery.

Mr Borrie said these results suggested that dealers were not carrying out pre-delivery inspections thoroughly. Only one third of respondents could recall receiving or being shown the pre-delivery inspection checklist, although that was required under the code of practice.

The survey also suggested that the code provisions concerning conciliation and arbitration were a dead letter. Only

1 per cent of respondents with an unresolved dispute with their dealer could recall having been advised about the conciliation and arbitration procedures.

Mr Borrie said that compared with a similar survey carried out in 1977, it seemed fewer faults were developing in new cars during the first few months of warranty. None the less three-fifths of respondents still reported such defects.

The new car survey, the results of which Mr Borrie announced yesterday, is the latest in a series of monitoring exercises which have led him to express dissatisfaction with the way self-regulation in the motor trade is working.

The Office of Fair Trading is also concerned about deficient standards in repairs and servicing, and widespread malpractices in the sale of used cars, which give rise to the largest number of consumer complaints.

In the year ending September, 1979, 8,400 complaints were reported by trading standards departments relating to new cars, compared with 50,400 complaints about used cars. There were 17,500 complaints concerning repairs. In all three sectors, Mr Borrie said yesterday, complaints have increased at a disturbing rate.

His office intended to embark on a thorough reorganisation of the motor code. "Frankly, unless we can make really effective improvements, legislative controls may well become the only sensible alternative," Mr Borrie said.

## French food promotion attacked

By Hugh Clayton  
Agriculture Correspondent

Farmers complained yesterday about plans by Harrods to hold French food promotion in its food hall next month.

Mr Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, said in a letter to the store that "the French are doing their utmost to attack the British market and producer, and are using illegal and unfair means to do so."

He did not ask for the promotion to be cancelled, but urged Harrods to mount a similar display of British foods. "Some of our members have taken great

exception to the French promotion," he wrote.

Leaders of the union are under pressure from members to block imports of cheese and apples from France on the ground that French farmers receive secret government subsidies which break EEC rules. British farmers are also bitter about the refusal of France to allow unrestricted imports of British lamb. Harrods would not comment yesterday.

Budget complaints: Rural lobbies which represent many Conservative Party members issued strong complaints yesterday about the Budget. The farmers' union said that it was "dis-

appointed" that no relief from capital taxation had been given to owner-occupiers.

Mr George Lillingston, president of the Country Landowners' Association, said that his members would be "deeply disappointed" that the Chancellor had offered no relief from capital taxes to agricultural landlords.

The Scottish Landowners' Federation said: "Members have got tired of politicians' promises." Farmers would now be much worse off than when Capital Transfer Tax was introduced in 1974. The three lobbies have a total of more than 150,000 members.

# "BUDGET EDITION" HOW MIDLAND BANK HELPS SMALL BUSINESSES.

**"The Chancellor's Budget proposals provide new opportunities for small businesses. Why not capitalise now by examining the special facilities available from Midland Bank: equity share capital, 20 year loans, the 'smaller exports' scheme."**

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Through a special scheme for making financial help available to companies with an export turnover of £250,000 or less or those who export intermittently or who do not wish to

take normal ECGD insurance cover.

Through actually investing in your business—you retain control; we provide £5,000 or more of often much-needed capital.

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Midland Bank Limited







## RIG DISASTER

Sea King helicopters  
both air forces  
played key rescue role

in Chatterbox  
in the closely-knit circle  
of helicopter rescue crews the  
Kjelland affair is  
ed as having been the  
test of all the skills,  
tent and organizations  
over the past 36 years  
of this once-despised type of  
started saving lives in  
rude jungles toward the  
Second World War.

Royal Air Force and  
Norwegian Air Force  
who took part in Thurs-  
day's rescue and were  
searching for survivors or  
until late yesterday, all  
that few machines other  
the British-built Westland  
helicopters could have  
coped the appalling condi-  
tions of the British coast-  
line 150 miles from the  
Norwegian base.

At one stage there was  
a serious risk of mid-air  
collision between the two  
Sea Kings. The captain of  
one Sea King had a "near  
miss" about 70ft from colli-  
sion with a civilian helicopter  
which was trying to assist.

reporters covering the  
disaster were:  
Mr Allen, Ian Bradley,  
Mr Charles, David Felton,  
Mr Gibbs, Nicholas Hirst,  
Mr Faux, Ronald Ker-  
don, McIntyre, Ian  
Noyes, Hugh Stewart,  
Mr Nicholas Timmins.

Lieutenant Michael  
second pilot of "Rescue  
202" Squadron on the  
which scrambled from  
in Northumberland  
after receiving the  
call, told me: "We  
the search area at 5.30  
half an hour later we  
dingly with ten people

sea was so rough that  
we thought it would be  
direct a surface rescue  
from one of the oil rigs  
rather than try to winch  
survivors up ourselves.  
We realized this would  
be so long as we winched  
all up in about 45

winchman down the wire  
light Sergeant Michael  
od. Having experienced  
is involved in winching  
he sea at night and being  
in calm, exercise con-  
this correspondent can  
ate what Flight Sergeant  
od and the other winch-  
to cope with in Thurs-  
day's conditions. Clearly  
ust have demonstrated  
e in physical endurance  
rsonal courage.

crew of Rescue 31, the  
were Flight Lieutenant  
Neville, aircraft captain  
st pilot, and Flight Ser-  
geant Moody, navigator.  
inch operator, dropped  
re batch of survivors on  
y rig and then climbed  
it because fog was add-  
ing hazards of high seas  
is height they picked up  
eping signal from an

automatic rescue beacon. They  
hom'd down onto it and found  
a lifeboat with 26 survivors  
aboard. The lifeboat was  
radioed that his vessel was  
damaged and two of the occu-  
pants were injured.

Flight Sergeant Yarwood  
again went down on the wire,  
and found that the damage to  
the boat was not critical, and  
the injuries reported were re-  
latively slight. Instead of winch-  
ing up the occupants, the crew  
of Rescue 31 gave a nearby  
surface vessel an accurate po-  
sition of the lifeboat, and the  
26 were saved shortly after  
midnight.

Rescue 31 then flew to an  
oil rig on the Auk field which  
was still clear of the thickening  
fog to refuel and rest for a  
few hours before resuming  
search operations at first light.

Similar conditions were en-  
countered by the crew of  
"Rescue 25" from C Flight, 202  
Squadron, from RAF Coltishall,  
Norfolk, which scrambled al-  
most simultaneously. This air-  
craft was captained by Flight  
Lieutenant Jim Bellingham, with  
Flight Lieutenant Adrian Nokes  
as second pilot, with Master  
Air Electronics Operator John  
Reeson and Master Air Load-  
master Ted Berry in the back.

While the loss of the Alexan-  
der Kielland will obviously  
pose many safety questions  
affecting the North Sea oil in-  
dustry, the success of the re-  
scue operation ironically owes  
much to the concern voiced in  
the late 1960s in Britain about  
the lack of effective helicopter  
rescue coverage of the North  
Sea.

After much political pressure  
the British Government finally  
authorized the expenditure of  
some £20m on a fleet of Sea  
Kings to replace the small short-  
range Whirlwind helicopters  
which could have given no  
effective assistance on Thurs-  
day night.

Another important factor in  
the success of the rescue opera-  
tion was the close liaison be-  
tween the RAF and the Royal  
Norwegian Air Force, which  
also uses British-built Sea  
Kings.

Royal Air Force, Royal Navy  
and British civilian helicopter  
units constantly train with, and  
exchange information with their  
opposite numbers in Norway,  
Denmark, West Germany,  
Sweden, Belgium, France, and  
the Irish Republic. The Alex-  
ander Kielland disaster, occur-  
ring virtually midway between  
Britain and Norway, was a  
classic example of the need for  
such international cooperation.

Another factor contributing  
to the rescue was the presence  
overhead of an RAF Nimrod  
long-range maritime reconnais-  
sance aircraft from the force of  
three squadrons primarily em-  
ployed to keep a watch on the  
activities of Warsaw Pact ships  
and aircraft in the Icelandic  
gap and the Western Approaches.

In the atmosphere of friendly  
rivalry which exists between  
the RAF and the Royal Navy  
in helicopter rescue operations  
the RAF yesterday were tem-  
pered to regard the Alexander  
Kielland as "finest hours" during  
the Fastnet Yacht race rescue.

No one was rejoicing much  
however. As with the Navy after  
Fastnet, there was the sobering  
reflection in RAF quarters  
about those whom they had not  
been able to save.

Disaster without reason, page 12

Disaster without reason, page 12

Disaster without reason, page 12

Disaster without reason, page 12

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Disaster without reason, page 12



The four remaining legs of the Alexander Kielland visible above the level sea and (right) the broken leg which caused the platform to capsize, trapping an unknown toll of victims.

Doomed rig  
converted  
in Norway to  
'sea hotel'

From Ian Murray  
Paris, March 28

The Alexander Kielland was  
built by the Compagnie Fran-  
caise d'Entreprises Metalliques  
at Dunkirk at a cost of  
200m francs. It was delivered  
in 1976 to Stavanger Drilling,  
the Norwegian company which  
ordered it.

A spokesman for CFEM said  
today: "We have absolutely no  
idea how this disaster could  
have happened." For the  
moment, the company is wait-  
ing for reports from the owners  
and the operators, British  
Petroleum, before starting its  
own inquiry. There was no  
reason, he said, for the other  
10 rigs of the same design (the  
P89) serving in the North Sea  
to be withdrawn.

This rig had been altered in  
Norway from a search platform  
into a "sea hotel". The conver-  
sion has been carried out by  
full consultation between CFEM  
and Stavanger Drilling, and the  
spokesman said that this con-  
version was only one possible  
reason for the platform's failure.

Designs for the platform  
were worked out between 1963  
and 1966 by the French state  
Institut de Petrole (ISP) and  
the French company Neptune-  
Formet, specifically for use in  
the North Sea. The first plat-  
forms went into service in  
1967, and there have been no  
previous accidents involving them.

The five-leg design was  
chosen to give the rig extra  
stability and over the years  
they had proved themselves,  
according to the spokesman.

The ISP said they, too, were  
waiting for reports from both  
the owners and the builders  
before deciding what further  
action they needed to take.

In Dunkirk, the CFEM's  
director, M. Michel Rivat, said  
the semi-submersible platform  
P89 type offshore rigs were  
"built to resist extremely vio-  
lent storms with waves of 25 to  
30 metres". He added that the  
company did not yet know the  
nature of the modifications in  
Norway to convert it to living  
quarters, Agence France-Press  
reports.

Of the eleven P89 platforms  
operating in the world, seven  
were built by CFEM.

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were built by CFEM.



Dry land and safety again for some of the survivors arriving at Stavanger airport.

13 Britons safe but 20  
still among missing

More than 20 British workers  
were among those feared to be  
still missing yesterday. But an-  
other 13 were "reasonably  
well" in Stavanger hospital  
according to their employers,  
Grootco (UK) Ltd, of Middle-  
brough.

For the wives and families  
of others the waiting, and pray-  
ing, continued. In Grimsby,  
Mrs Margaret Poulter was  
waiting by the telephone with  
her daughters Andrea, aged 19,  
and Jill, aged 16. Her son  
Graham, aged 10, was at school.

She has been told that her  
husband Jimmy, aged 39, was  
in the cinema when the plat-  
form capsized. "All I want  
is a report from Jimmy's  
friend Tony Sylvester that he  
got out of the cinema", she  
said.

"We are just praying that he  
got into a supply boat. He is a  
very good swimmer. He is a  
good swimmer. He is a good  
swimmer. He is a good swim-  
mer. He is a good swimmer."

Mrs Sylvester said yesterday  
she was at a performance of  
West Side Story, in which her  
son Vince, aged 12, was appear-  
ing, when she heard of the  
disaster.

"I just didn't believe it", she  
said. "We went home and we  
were all terribly frightened. But  
there was nothing we could do.  
We just had to sit and wait.  
Then at about 1 am we heard  
Tony was safe." It was late in  
the morning that her husband  
telephoned to say he hoped to  
come home some time today. He  
worked for Grootco, and had  
been on North Sea rigs for  
three years.

Mr J. van Nieuwburg, Groot-  
co's manager, said employees  
of the company, which special-  
izes in "hooking up" rig com-  
ponents came from all over  
Britain. He could not say how  
many of his 31 employees in  
the Ekofisk field were on board  
the rig at the time. "The ac-  
cident happened at the moment  
of a crew change-over". It was  
later confirmed that all 31 were  
on the rig when it capsized.

Mr Nieuwburg said the com-  
pany had set up an emergency

information centre for its em-  
ployees' families. One Briton  
believed missing was Mr John  
Harris, from Kimberley Drive,  
Grimsby.

Another missing Briton is  
believed to be Mr Brian Dow-  
son, a foreman, father of two  
children from Malvern Rise,  
Lowestoft. A friend at the  
family's home said: "We gather  
Brian is not among the 13  
Britons who are safe. His wife  
is here and we're all just wait-  
ing for news."

Mr Terry Lister, 40, of Mon-  
mouth Street, Hull, father of  
three, a foreman rigger escaped  
from the cinema and was 11  
hours in a life raft before being  
picked up by helicopter.

His wife Vivienne, who  
learned he was safe at dawn  
yesterday said he was in the  
water for some time before  
floating an overturned life raft  
which he and other survivors  
riched and scrambled aboard.  
He had joined the rig only the  
day before.

Mrs Josephine McGrady told  
yesterday how her husband  
John went to work on the rig  
because he could not get a job  
in his home town. Mr McGrady,  
aged 43, left the Cumberland  
unemployment black spot of  
Cleator Moor two years ago  
"because he was desperate for  
work". Mr McGrady would be  
due home on Wednesday. His  
wife and two sons, aged 16 and  
12, spent the night waiting by  
the telephone at their semi-  
detached home in Thornfield  
Close, Cleator Moor.

Mrs McGrady said: "If he lives  
through this I never want him  
to go back."

The first that one of the men's  
wives heard of the disaster was  
when her husband phoned her  
on Thursday night to say he was  
safe.

Mrs Elizabeth Munro, aged 30,  
said at her home in Wood-  
hall Avenue, Coatbridge, near  
Glasgow yesterday: "He told  
me one of the legs had snapped  
and it had heeled over."

Mr Thomas Munro, aged 46,  
her husband, had a narrow  
escape. He had finished his  
shift on a nearby platform and  
was about to board a helicopter  
to return to the accommodation  
vessel when the disaster hap-  
pened.

Another survivor was named  
as Mr William Brooking, from  
Condorast, Strathclyde. He  
is one of those recovering in  
Stavanger hospital.

State can  
order  
immediate  
checks

By Hugh Noyes,  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr David Howell, the Secre-  
tary of State for Energy, making  
an interim statement in the  
House of Commons yesterday  
on the oil rig disaster, assured  
anxious MPs that powers  
existed to enable the Govern-  
ment to carry out immediate  
safety inspections of similar  
structures in the British sector  
of the North Sea.

He told the House that classi-  
fication of all oil rig structures  
in the British sector was going  
ahead as rapidly as possible and  
there was constant concern with  
safety regulations and inspec-  
tions.

The tragedy was a sombre  
warning, Mr Howell said, of the  
appalling dangers of condi-  
tions in which men were con-  
tinuously working in the North  
Sea to provide this country with  
oil.

Mrs Thatcher has sent a mes-  
sage of concern and sympathy  
to the Norwegian Prime Minis-  
ter and Mr Howell has sent a  
similar message to the Nor-  
wegian Energy Minister. All  
possible assistance was being  
offered by Britain.

He assured MPs that the  
British Government would keep  
closely in touch with any  
developments involving an  
inquiry.

Dr David Owen, Opposition  
spokesman on energy, expressed  
his sympathy on behalf of the  
Labour benches, agreed with  
Mr Howell that no boundary  
line in the North Sea should be  
allowed to impede the need for  
the fullest and closest coopera-  
tion.

North Sea safety was the re-  
sponsibility of all, and every-  
one knew, Dr Owen said, that  
in similar circumstances this  
country would have the support  
of the Norwegians.

The Queen's sympathy: The Queen  
King Olav of Norway over the  
North Sea tragedy, a Bucking-  
ham Palace spokesman said.

Thatcher message  
Mrs Thatcher is sending a  
message of sympathy to the  
Norwegian Prime Minister and  
has offered all possible aid and  
assistance.

Phillips Petroleum said yes-  
terday that they were due to  
take on charter next month the  
Henrik Ibsen rig, which is of  
similar design to the Alexander  
Kielland and was built by the  
same company.

Phillips said that they were  
not aware of having any other  
rigs of the same design on  
charter. They said: "We  
haven't discovered the cause of  
the accident. It would be silly  
to assume at this stage that  
there is necessarily any design  
fault in the rig."

The British National Oil Cor-  
poration and Occidental Oil  
both have only two rigs on  
charter, in neither case of the  
same type as the Alexander  
Kielland.



The four remaining legs of the Alexander Kielland visible above the level sea and (right) the broken leg which caused the platform to capsize, trapping an unknown toll of victims.

Unions demand urgent  
look into gale risks

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

National and local union  
officials yesterday called for an  
immediate inspection of all  
North Sea rigs which might  
carry the same risk of being  
capsized as the Alexander L.  
Kielland.

Both the Association of Sci-  
entific Technical and Managerial  
Staffs and the Transport and  
General Workers' Union en-  
dorsed a call by the Aberdeen  
based inter-union offshore com-  
mittee for detailed structural  
examinations of similar rigs to  
ensure that they could with-  
stand gales.

The two unions were repre-  
sented on the Burgoyne Com-  
mittee whose official report on  
offshore safety was published  
earlier this month and issued  
a dissenting note urging that  
the enforcement of safety stan-  
dards on British installations  
should not be left to the De-  
partment of Energy.

While professing anxiety not  
to be seen as exploiting the  
disaster, particularly before a  
full inquiry had uncovered the  
cause, union officials claimed  
that it underlined the TUC view  
that current enforcement of  
safety provisions in the North  
Sea are inadequate.

Mr Stanley Davidson, assistant  
general secretary of ASTMS,  
which is an official's regard  
as the seriously under-united  
field of North Sea exploration  
claims about 1,000 members,  
mainly technical personnel, said  
last night: "I have called for  
an urgent inspection of all  
similar semi-submersibles to  
ensure that a similar tragedy could  
not occur on other rigs."

Mr Davidson said last night  
that although there were  
ASTMS members working in  
the Ekofisk field, mostly for  
subcontractors including Decca  
Survey, as far as he knew none  
had been aboard the Kielland.

Mr Davidson noted that Nor-  
wegian enforcement of safety  
was in the unions' view tighter  
than that for British installa-  
tions and added that tragedy can  
happen there, what can we expect  
in United Kingdom waters?

In insisting that the Health  
and Safety Executive, rather  
than the Department of Energy  
should enforce safety provi-  
sions, the signatories to the  
minority report, Mr John Miller  
of the TCUW and Mr Roger  
Lyons of ASTMS were chiefly  
concerned with the more  
routine casualties which  
occurred in operating condi-  
tions, rather than the question  
of the seaworthiness of the  
vessels themselves.

Moreover, they argued  
strongly that Norwegian safety  
standards were higher and  
pointed out that in contrast to  
the British the Norwegian Gov-  
ernment had in the wake of the  
Ekofisk blow-out trans-  
ferred responsibility for occu-  
pational and structural safety  
offshore from the Ministry of  
Energy to the Ministry of Lab-  
our on December 31 1978.

Mr Miller said, however,  
yesterday that he believed the  
disaster still underlined the  
need for the Health and Safety  
Act to be applied in full to  
North Sea installations.

At present there is no provision  
for onshore industry or the  
right of union safety repre-  
sentatives to be consulted. It is  
all up to the installation  
engineer who is responsible to  
the company.

Union officials also pointed  
to a recommendation in the  
Burgoyne report, on which there  
was no dissent, urging the  
Department of Energy to issue  
guidance on standby vessels and  
in particular to consider alter-  
native methods of evacuation to  
lifeboats and life rafts in emer-  
gencies, such as scrambling  
nets.

The committee also said that  
work should be done on mini-  
mizing heat loss of persons in  
the water.

The TUC in its submission  
urged survival drills to be made  
compulsory in on shore training  
and that evacuation and fire  
drills should be made fully  
effective.

Miss Sheila McKechie, an  
ASTMS member and safety  
officer, said last night: "When  
you are on the limits of tech-  
nology as in the North Sea the  
conflicts between safety and  
production are extreme. There  
is no doubt that this high risk  
area in many cases production  
is put before safety."

Unions demand urgent  
look into gale risks

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London will  
over most  
insurance

hard Allen  
substantial part of the  
al insurance claim for  
ral damage will have to  
be by Lloyd's and the  
market.

accommodation rig was  
in Norway for a total  
of about the value of a  
nker, and much of the  
ss came to London  
a reinsurance package  
ed by insurance broker  
ck, Forbes, Bland,

as disasters: April 15.  
The Ocean Express oil rig  
off the Gulf of Mexico,  
13.

1, 22, 1977: 15,000 to  
tons of oil gushed into  
rth Sea during a safety  
change on the Bravo rig  
Ekofisk field. The 112  
n board were evacuated.  
Red" Adair, the United  
firefighter, brought the  
n under control. The  
rig was manned by  
Petroleum, the opera-  
the Alexander Kielland,  
1979, six accidents  
lce, mainly off the coast  
island, United States. The  
serious was the blow-out  
Ixtoc One oil well in 3 No-  
vember 1979. No dis-  
ers were reported, but  
the oil was spewing out  
a giant spill that lasted  
months.

North Sea has seen many  
sides drilling for oil,  
but none on the scale  
night's disaster. Loss of  
it been mainly confined  
gle incidents involving

ier this month 28 sup-  
taff from a drilling rig,  
e Argyll Field, Ocean  
ies, were evacuated as a  
tion after a blow-out.

e Minister being  
informed  
Prime Minister, who was  
quers yesterday for West  
Berry Schmidt, the West  
in Chancellor, was being  
ly informed of develop-  
the tragedy, as did the  
n party.



Wrapped in a blanket, a rescued man tells his story.

## Platform was due for structural inspection in July

By David Felton and  
Ian Bradley

The Alexander L. Kielland,  
which was built in France  
nearly four years ago, was  
checked by the Norwegian  
authorities for structural de-  
fects last September and was  
due for inspection in July.

September's inspection cov-  
ered the basic structure,  
machinery and equipment and  
although some minor faults  
were found, these were rectified  
and were not related to struc-  
tural problems.

The inspection was carried  
out by engineers from Det  
Norske Veritas, the Norwegian  
equivalent of the British Lloyd's  
Register, which inspects and  
certifies vessels and rigs,  
operating under the Norwegian  
flag, for insurance purposes.

Mr Christian Mathiesen, tech-  
nical director of the non-profit  
making body, said in Oslo last  
night that a team of rig experts  
were waiting for the collapsed

column to be brought ashore  
for inspection. "It is too soon  
to say what went wrong, we  
have to wait until we have all  
the information."

Most of the rigs of similar  
design were built in Dunkirk by  
Compagnie Francaise d'Entre-  
prises Metalliques.

Mr Mathiesen said that the  
certification process was "very  
comprehensive" and started at  
the design stage when the tech-  
nical drawings, design and  
specifications, had to be  
approved by his organization.  
Checks were carried out  
throughout the construction of  
a rig, including tests on materi-  
als being used.

Mr Mathiesen said the com-  
pleted rig was then surveyed to  
ensure that it complies with the  
design and with Norwegian  
Government safety regulations  
which are administered by the  
Maritime Directorate. Items  
covered by the final



# Saturday Review

## The porridge party

by Graham Greene

The disagreeable manservant, whom I had hoped never to see again, opened the door. There were five expensive cars lounging in the drive, two of them with chauffeurs, and I thought that he looked at my little Fiat 500 with disdain. Then he looked at my suit and I could see that his eyebrows went up. "What name?" he asked, though I felt sure that he remembered it well enough. He spoke in English with a bit of a cockney twang. So he had remembered my nationality.

"Jones," I said.  
"Doctor Fischer's engaged."  
"He's expecting me," I said.  
"Doctor Fischer's dining with friends."  
"I happen to be dining with him myself."  
"Have you an invitation?"  
"Of course I have an invitation."  
"Let me see the card."  
"You can't. I left it at home."

He scowled at me, but he wasn't confident—I could tell that. I said, "I don't think Doctor Fischer would be very pleased if there's an empty place at his table. You'd better go and ask him."  
"What did you say your name was?"  
"Jones."  
"Follow me."

I followed his white coat through the hall and up the stairs. On the landing he turned to me. He said, "You've been lying to me. . . . If you weren't invited. . . . He made a motion with his fists like a boxer sparring.  
"What's your name?" I asked.  
"What's that to do with you?"

"I just want to tell the Doctor how you welcome his friends."  
"Friends," he said. "He has no friends. I tell you, if you weren't invited. . . ."  
"I am invited."

We turned the opposite way from the study where I had last seen Doctor Fischer and he swung open a door. "Mr Jones," the man grunted and I walked in, and there stood all the Toodle dees as me. The men wore dinner jackets and Mrs Montgomery a long dress.

"Come in, Jones," Doctor Fischer said. "You can serve dinner as soon as it's ready, Albert."

The table was laid with crystal glasses which caught the lights of a chandelier overhead; even the soup plates looked expensive. I wondered a little at seeing them there: it was hardly the season for cold soup. "This is Jones, my son-in-law," Doctor Fischer said. "You must excuse his glove. It covers a deformity. Mrs Montgomery, Mr Kips, Monsieur Belmont, Mr Richard Deane, Divisionnaire Krueger." (Not for him to mistake Krueger.) I could feel the fumes of their hostility projected at me like tear-gas. Why? Perhaps it was my dark suit. I had lowered what apartment builders would call the "standing".

"I have met Monsieur Jones," Belmont said as though he were a prosecution witness identifying the accused.  
"Me too," said Mrs Montgomery, briefly.

"Jones is a great linguist," Doctor Fischer said. "He translates letters about chocolates," and I realised he must have made enquiries about me from my employers. "Here, Jones, at our little parties we use English as our common language because Richard Deane, great star though he may be, speaks no other, though he sometimes attempts a kind of French in his cups—after his third one. On the screen you've only heard him dubbed in French."

Everyone laughed as though on cue except Deane who gave a mirthless smile. "He has the qualities after a drink or two to play Falstaff except a lack of humour and a lack of weight. The second tonight we shall do our best to remedy. The humour, I'm afraid, is beyond us. You may ask what is left. Only his fast-diminishing reputation among women and teenagers. Kips, you are not enjoying yourself. Is something wrong? Perhaps you miss our usual aperitifs, but tonight I used to spoil your palates for what's coming."

"No, no, I assure you nothing is wrong," Doctor Fischer. Nothing.  
"I always insist," Doctor Fischer said, "at my little parties that everybody enjoys himself."

"They are a riot," Mrs Montgomery said. "riot."  
"Doctor Fischer is invariably a very good host," Divisionnaire Krueger informed me with condescension.

"And so generous," Mrs Montgomery said. "This necklace I'm wearing—it was a prize at our last party. She was wearing a heavy necklace of gold pieces—they seemed to me from a distance to be Krueger-rands."

"There is always a little prize for everyone," the Divisionnaire murmured. He was certainly old and grey and he was probably full of sleep. I liked him the best because he seemed to have accepted me more easily than the others.

"There the prizes are," Mrs Montgomery said. "I helped him choose." She went over to a side-table where I noticed now a pile of gift-wrapped parcels. She touched one with the tip of a finger like a child reaching a Christmas stocking to tell from the crackle what is within.

"Prizes for what?" I asked.  
"Certainly not for intelligence," Dr Fischer said, "or the Divisionnaire would never win anything."  
Everyone was watching the pile of gifts.

"All we have to do is just to put up with his little whims," Mrs Montgomery explained, "and then he distributes the prizes. There was one evening—can you believe it?—he served up live lobsters with bowls of boiling water. We had to catch and cook our own. One lobster nipped the General's finger."

"I bear the scar still," Divisionnaire Krueger complained.  
"The only wound in action which he has ever received," Doctor Fischer said.  
"It was a riot," Mrs Montgomery told me as though I might not have caught the point.

"Anyway it turned her hair blue," Doctor Fischer said. "Before that night it was an unsavoury grey stained with nicotine."  
"Not grey—a natural blond—and not nicotine-stained."  
"Remember the rules, Mrs Montgomery," Doctor Fischer said. "If you contradict me once again you will lose your prize."

"That happened once at one of our parties to Mr Kips," Monsieur Belmont said. "He lost an eighteen-carat gold lighter. Like this one." He took a leather case from his pocket. "It was little loss to me," Mr Kips said. "I don't smoke." Be careful, Kips. Don't denigrate my gifts—or yours might disappear a second time tonight.



Illustration by Sally

noticed, preferred Polish vodka.  
"First," Doctor Fischer said, "I would ask you to toast the memory of our two—friends shall I call them on this occasion?—on the anniversary of their deaths two years ago. An odd coincidence. I chose the date for that reason. Madame Faverjon died by her own hand. I suppose she could no longer stomach herself—she was difficult enough for me to stomach her, though I had found her at first an interesting study. Of all the people at this table she was the greediest—and that is saying a good deal. She was also the richest of all of you. There have been moments when I have watched each one of you show a sign of rebelling against the criticisms I have made of you and I have been forced to remind you of the present at the end of dinner which you were in danger of forgetting. That was never the case with Madame Faverjon. She accepted everything and anything in order to qualify for her present, though she could easily have afforded to buy one of equal value for herself. She was an abominable woman, an unspeakable woman, and yet I had to admit she showed a certain courage at the end. I doubt if one of you would ever show as much, not even our gallant Divisionnaire. I doubt if one of you has even contemplated ridding the world of his unnecessary presence. So I'll ask you to toast the ghost of Madame Faverjon."

I obeyed like all the others. Albert entered carrying a silver tray on which there was a large pot of caviare and little silver dishes of egg and onion and sliced lemons.

"You will excuse Albert for serving me first," Doctor Fischer said.  
"I adore caviare," Mrs Montgomery said. "I could live on it."  
"You could afford to live on it if you were prepared to spend your own money."

"I understand that the Welsh no, no, I remember, Jones—I mean the Scots—consider it a blasphemy to spoil their porridge with sugar. They even eat it, I am told, with salt. You may certainly have salt. Offer the gentlemen salt, Albert. Mrs Montgomery has decided to go hungry."

"Oh no, I won't ruin your little joke," Doctor Fischer. Give me the salt. It can't make the porridge any worse than it is."

Within a minute or two to my wonder they were all eating in silence and with a grim intensity. Perhaps the porridge clogged their tongues. "You don't attempt yours, Jones?" Doctor Fischer asked me and he helped himself to a little more caviare.

"I'm not hungry enough."  
"Nor rich enough," Doctor Fischer said. "For several years now I have been studying the greediness of the rich. To him that has shall be given—those cynical words of Christ they take very literally. 'Given' not 'earned', you notice. The presents I hand out when the dinner is over they could easily afford to give themselves, but then they would have earned them if only by signing a cheque. The rich hate signing cheques. Hence the success of credit cards. One card takes the place of a hundred cheques. They'll do anything to get their presents for nothing. This is one of the hardest tests I've submitted them to yet, and look how quickly they are eating up their cold porridge, so that the time for the presents will arrive. You, I am afraid, will get nothing, if you don't eat."

"I have something of more value than your present waiting for me at home."  
Very gallantly put, Doctor Fischer said, "but don't be too confident. Women don't always wait. I doubt if a missing hand aids romance. Albert, Mr Deane is ready for a second helping."

"Oh no," Mrs Montgomery said, "no, not second helpings."  
"It's for the sake of Mr Deane. I want to fatten him so that he can play Falstaff."

Deane gave him a furious look, but he accepted the second helping.  
"I'm joking, of course. Deane could no more play Falstaff than Brit Eklund could play Cleopatra. Deane is not an actor; he is a sex object. Teenage girls worship him. Jones. How disappointed they would be if they could see him without his clothes. I have reason to believe that he suffers from premature ejaculation. Perhaps the porridge will slow you down, Deane, my poor fellow. Albert, another plate for Mr Kips and I see Mrs Montgomery is nearly ready. Hurry up, Divisionnaire, hurry up, Belmont. No presents before everyone has finished." I was reminded of a huntsman controlling his pack with a crack of the whip.

"Watch them, Jones. They are so anxious to be finished that they even forget to drink."  
"I don't suppose Yvonne goes well with porridge."  
"Have a good laugh at them, Jones. They won't take it amiss."  
"I don't find them funny."

"Of course I agree that a party like this has a serious side, but all the same. Aren't you reminded a little of pigs eating out of a trough? You would almost think they enjoy it. Mr Kips has spit some porridge over his shirt. Clean him up, Albert."

"You revoke me, Doctor Fischer."  
He turned his eyes towards me: they were like the polished chips of a pale blue stone. Some grey beads of caviare had lodged in his red moustache.  
"Yes, I can understand how you feel. I sometimes feel that way myself, but my research must go on to its end. I won't give up now. Bravo, Divisionnaire. You are catching them up. You play a good spoon, Deane, my boy. I wish your female admirers could see you at this moment, gazing away."

"Why do you do it?" I asked.  
"Why should I tell you? You are not one of us. You never will be. Don't count on your expectations from me."  
"I don't."  
"You have a poor man's pride, I see. After all, why shouldn't I tell you. You are a sort of son. I want to discover, Jones, if the greed of our rich friends has any limit. If there's a 'Thus far and no further'. If a day will come when they'll refuse to earn their presents. Their greed certainly isn't limited by pride. You can see that for yourself tonight. Mr Kips, like Herr Krupp, would have sat down happily to eat with Hitler in expectation of favours, whenever was placed before him. The Divisionnaire has spilled porridge down his bib. Give him a clean one, Albert. I think that tonight will mark the end of one experiment. I am playing with another idea."

"You are a rich man yourself. Are there limits to your greed?"  
"Perhaps I shall find out one day. But my greed is of a different kind to theirs. I'm not greedy for trinkets, Jones."

"That God is greedy."  
"Oh, don't think I'm a moment I believe in him more than I believe in devil, but I have always theology an amusing in a game. Albert, Mrs Montgomery has finished her ridge. You can take her What was I saying?"

"That God is greedy."  
"Well, the believers at sentimentalism say that greedily for our love. I think that, judging from world he is supposed to made, he can only be a for our humiliation, and greed how could he exhaust? It's bottomless world grows more and more miserable while he twists endless screw, though gives us presents—it universal suicide would—his purpose—to alleviate humiliations, we suffer cancer of the rectum, a sing cold, incontinence, example, you are a poor so he gives you a present, my daughter, to you satisfied a little long article into the dustbin look at them and laugh. Have you no humour? I one has an empty plate, Kips, and how impudent they're all getting now. Belmont is even finishing his plate for him. I'm sure it's quite in accord with my rules, but I'll pass. Bear with me moment longer, my friend. I finish my caviare, can untie their bibs, Albert."

"And yet perhaps Mrs Montgomery's necklace will longer than your so-love."  
"Why should he humiliate us?"  
"Don't I wish to humiliate And they say he made his image. Perhaps he is he was a rather bad craft and he is disappointed in result. One throws a article into the dustbin look at them and laugh. Have you no humour? I one has an empty plate, Kips, and how impudent they're all getting now. Belmont is even finishing his plate for him. I'm sure it's quite in accord with my rules, but I'll pass. Bear with me moment longer, my friend. I finish my caviare, can untie their bibs, Albert."

"This extract is taken from *Dr Fischer of Geneva or Bomb Party* by Graham Greene, which has just published by The Bodley at £4.50.  
© 1980 Graham Greene.

"I thought: But surely this is a madhouse ruled by a mad doctor. It was only curiosity which kept me there—certainly it was not for any prize that I stayed."  
"Perhaps," Doctor Fischer said, "before we sit down to dinner—a dinner I very much hope that you'll enjoy and do full justice to as I have given a great deal of thought to the menu—I should explain to our new guest the etiquette we observe at these dinners."  
"Most necessary," Belmont said. "I think—you will excuse me—you should perhaps have put his appearance here—shall we say?—to the vote? After all, we are a kind of club."

"Mr Kips said, 'I agree with Belmont. We all of us know where we stand. We accept certain conditions. It's all in the spirit of fun. A stranger might misunderstand.'"  
"Mr Kips in search of a dollar," Doctor Fischer said. "You are afraid that the value of the prizes may be reduced with another guest just as you hoped the value would rise after the death of two of our number."

There was a silence. I thought from the expression in his eyes that Mr Kips was about to make an angry reply, but he didn't; all he said was, "You misunderstand me."

Now all of this, read by someone not present at the party, might well sound no more than the jolly banter of clubmen who insult each other in a hearty way before sitting down to a good dinner and some heavy drinking and good companionship. But to me, as I watched the faces and detected how near the knuckle the teasing seemed to go, there was a hollowness and a hypocrisy in the humorous exchanges and hate like a raincloud hung over the room—haired of his guests on the part of the host and harrowed of the host on the part of the guests. I felt a complete outsider for, though I disliked every one of them, my emotion was too weak as yet to be called hatred.

"To the table then," Doctor Fischer said, "and I will explain to our new guest the purpose of my little parties, while Albert brings in the dinner."

I found myself sitting next to Mrs Montgomery who was on the right of the host. I had Belmont on my right and the actor Richard Deane opposite me. Beside every plate was a bottle of good Yvonne, except beside our host's, who, I

noticed, preferred Polish vodka.  
"First," Doctor Fischer said, "I would ask you to toast the memory of our two—friends shall I call them on this occasion?—on the anniversary of their deaths two years ago. An odd coincidence. I chose the date for that reason. Madame Faverjon died by her own hand. I suppose she could no longer stomach herself—she was difficult enough for me to stomach her, though I had found her at first an interesting study. Of all the people at this table she was the greediest—and that is saying a good deal. She was also the richest of all of you. There have been moments when I have watched each one of you show a sign of rebelling against the criticisms I have made of you and I have been forced to remind you of the present at the end of dinner which you were in danger of forgetting. That was never the case with Madame Faverjon. She accepted everything and anything in order to qualify for her present, though she could easily have afforded to buy one of equal value for herself. She was an abominable woman, an unspeakable woman, and yet I had to admit she showed a certain courage at the end. I doubt if one of you would ever show as much, not even our gallant Divisionnaire. I doubt if one of you has even contemplated ridding the world of his unnecessary presence. So I'll ask you to toast the ghost of Madame Faverjon."

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"You could afford to live on it if you were prepared to spend your own money."

"I understand that the Welsh no, no, I remember, Jones—I mean the Scots—consider it a blasphemy to spoil their porridge with sugar. They even eat it, I am told, with salt. You may certainly have salt. Offer the gentlemen salt, Albert. Mrs Montgomery has decided to go hungry."

"Oh no, I won't ruin your little joke," Doctor Fischer. Give me the salt. It can't make the porridge any worse than it is."

Within a minute or two to my wonder they were all eating in silence and with a grim intensity. Perhaps the porridge clogged their tongues. "You don't attempt yours, Jones?" Doctor Fischer asked me and he helped himself to a little more caviare.

"I'm not hungry enough."  
"Nor rich enough," Doctor Fischer said. "For several years now I have been studying the greediness of the rich. To him that has shall be given—those cynical words of Christ they take very literally. 'Given' not 'earned', you notice. The presents I hand out when the dinner is over they could easily afford to give themselves, but then they would have earned them if only by signing a cheque. The rich hate signing cheques. Hence the success of credit cards. One card takes the place of a hundred cheques. They'll do anything to get their presents for nothing. This is one of the hardest tests I've submitted them to yet, and look how quickly they are eating up their cold porridge, so that the time for the presents will arrive. You, I am afraid, will get nothing, if you don't eat."

"I have something of more value than your present waiting for me at home."  
Very gallantly put, Doctor Fischer said, "but don't be too confident. Women don't always wait. I doubt if a missing hand aids romance. Albert, Mr Deane is ready for a second helping."

"Oh no," Mrs Montgomery said, "no, not second helpings."  
"It's for the sake of Mr Deane. I want to fatten him so that he can play Falstaff."

Deane gave him a furious look, but he accepted the second helping.  
"I'm joking, of course. Deane could no more play Falstaff than Brit Eklund could play Cleopatra. Deane is not an actor; he is a sex object. Teenage girls worship him. Jones. How disappointed they would be if they could see him without his clothes. I have reason to believe that he suffers from premature ejaculation. Perhaps the porridge will slow you down, Deane, my poor fellow. Albert, another plate for Mr Kips and I see Mrs Montgomery is nearly ready. Hurry up, Divisionnaire, hurry up, Belmont. No presents before everyone has finished." I was reminded of a huntsman controlling his pack with a crack of the whip.

"Watch them, Jones. They are so anxious to be finished that they even forget to drink."  
"I don't suppose Yvonne goes well with porridge."  
"Have a good laugh at them, Jones. They won't take it amiss."  
"I don't find them funny."

"Of course I agree that a party like this has a serious side, but all the same. Aren't you reminded a little of pigs eating out of a trough? You would almost think they enjoy it. Mr Kips has spit some porridge over his shirt. Clean him up, Albert."

"You revoke me, Doctor Fischer."  
He turned his eyes towards me: they were like the polished chips of a pale blue stone. Some grey beads of caviare had lodged in his red moustache.  
"Yes, I can understand how you feel. I sometimes feel that way myself, but my research must go on to its end. I won't give up now. Bravo, Divisionnaire. You are catching them up. You play a good spoon, Deane, my boy. I wish your female admirers could see you at this moment, gazing away."

"Why do you do it?" I asked.  
"Why should I tell you? You are not one of us. You never will be. Don't count on your expectations from me."  
"I don't."  
"You have a poor man's pride, I see. After all, why shouldn't I tell you. You are a sort of son. I want to discover, Jones, if the greed of our rich friends has any limit. If there's a 'Thus far and no further'. If a day will come when they'll refuse to earn their presents. Their greed certainly isn't limited by pride. You can see that for yourself tonight. Mr Kips, like Herr Krupp, would have sat down happily to eat with Hitler in expectation of favours, whenever was placed before him. The Divisionnaire has spilled porridge down his bib. Give him a clean one, Albert. I think that tonight will mark the end of one experiment. I am playing with another idea."

"You are a rich man yourself. Are there limits to your greed?"  
"Perhaps I shall find out one day. But my greed is of a different kind to theirs. I'm not greedy for trinkets, Jones."

"That God is greedy."  
"Oh, don't think I'm a moment I believe in him more than I believe in devil, but I have always theology an amusing in a game. Albert, Mrs Montgomery has finished her ridge. You can take her What was I saying?"

"That God is greedy."  
"Well, the believers at sentimentalism say that greedily for our love. I think that, judging from world he is supposed to made, he can only be a for our humiliation, and greed how could he exhaust? It's bottomless world grows more and more miserable while he twists endless screw, though gives us presents—it universal suicide would—his purpose—to alleviate humiliations, we suffer cancer of the rectum, a sing cold, incontinence, example, you are a poor so he gives you a present, my daughter, to you satisfied a little long article into the dustbin look at them and laugh. Have you no humour? I one has an empty plate, Kips, and how impudent they're all getting now. Belmont is even finishing his plate for him. I'm sure it's quite in accord with my rules, but I'll pass. Bear with me moment longer, my friend. I finish my caviare, can untie their bibs, Albert."

"And yet perhaps Mrs Montgomery's necklace will longer than your so-love."  
"Why should he humiliate us?"  
"Don't I wish to humiliate And they say he made his image. Perhaps he is he was a rather bad craft and he is disappointed in result. One throws a article into the dustbin look at them and laugh. Have you no humour? I one has an empty plate, Kips, and how impudent they're all getting now. Belmont is even finishing his plate for him. I'm sure it's quite in accord with my rules, but I'll pass. Bear with me moment longer, my friend. I finish my caviare, can untie their bibs, Albert."

"This extract is taken from *Dr Fischer of Geneva or Bomb Party* by Graham Greene, which has just published by The Bodley at £4.50.  
© 1980 Graham Greene.

"I thought: But surely this is a madhouse ruled by a mad doctor. It was only curiosity which kept me there—certainly it was not for any prize that I stayed."  
"Perhaps," Doctor Fischer said, "before we sit down to dinner—a dinner I very much hope that you'll enjoy and do full justice to as I have given a great deal of thought to the menu—I should explain to our new guest the etiquette we observe at these dinners."  
"Most necessary," Belmont said. "I think—you will excuse me—you should perhaps have put his appearance here—shall we say?—to the vote? After all, we are a kind of club."

"Mr Kips said, 'I agree with Belmont. We all of us know where we stand. We accept certain conditions. It's all in the spirit of fun. A stranger might misunderstand.'"  
"Mr Kips in search of a dollar," Doctor Fischer said. "You are afraid that the value of the prizes may be reduced with another guest just as you hoped the value would rise after the death of two of our number."

There was a silence. I thought from the expression in his eyes that Mr Kips was about to make an angry reply, but he didn't; all he said was, "You misunderstand me."

Now all of this, read by someone not present at the party, might well sound no more than the jolly banter of clubmen who insult each other in a hearty way before sitting down to a good dinner and some heavy drinking and good companionship. But to me, as I watched the faces and detected how near the knuckle the teasing seemed to go, there was a hollowness and a hypocrisy in the humorous exchanges and hate like a raincloud hung over the room—haired of his guests on the part of the host and harrowed of the host on the part of the guests. I felt a complete outsider for, though I disliked every one of them, my emotion was too weak as yet to be called hatred.

"To the table then," Doctor Fischer said, "and I will explain to our new guest the purpose of my little parties, while Albert brings in the dinner."

I found myself sitting next to Mrs Montgomery who was on the right of the host. I had Belmont on my right and the actor Richard Deane opposite me. Beside every plate was a bottle of good Yvonne, except beside our host's, who, I

noticed, preferred Polish vodka.  
"First," Doctor Fischer said, "I would ask you to toast the memory of our two—friends shall I call them on this occasion?—on the anniversary of their deaths two years ago. An odd coincidence. I chose the date for that reason. Madame Faverjon died by her own hand. I suppose she could no longer stomach herself—she was difficult enough for me to stomach her, though I had found her at first an interesting study. Of all the people at this table she was the greediest—and that is saying a good deal. She was also the richest of all of you. There have been moments when I have watched each one of you show a sign of rebelling against the criticisms I have made of you and I have been forced to remind you of the present at the end of dinner which you were in danger of forgetting. That was never the case with Madame Faverjon. She accepted everything and anything in order to qualify for her present, though she could easily have afforded to buy one of equal value for herself. She was an abominable woman, an unspeakable woman, and yet I had to admit she showed a certain courage at the end. I doubt if one of you would ever show as much, not even our gallant Divisionnaire. I doubt if one of you has even contemplated ridding the world of his unnecessary presence. So I'll ask you to toast the ghost of Madame Faverjon."

I obeyed like all the others. Albert entered carrying a silver tray on which there was a large pot of caviare and little silver dishes of egg and onion and sliced lemons.

"You will excuse Albert for serving me first," Doctor Fischer said.  
"I adore caviare," Mrs Montgomery said. "I could live on it."  
"You could afford to live on it if you were prepared to spend your own money."



## Charming curiosities of the vocal art

Merica von Stade: Arias by Verdi, Monteverdi, Rossini, Leoncavallo, National Centre Orchestra/Bernardi. S 76800, £4.99.

Her: Songs. Stadel/LPO/drew Davis. CBS 76828, 9.

guer: Operatic Arias. Sutherland/National PO/Bonyne. S 76800, £4.99.

back, etc: Sacred Music. nino/Vienna Boys' Choir. A RL 30469, £4.99.

Gomez: French Songs. Suga. S 76800, £4.99.

lt: Songs. Bailey/Constable. S 76800, £4.99.

gie Teyte: A Tribute. RBC. GL 369, £4.75; ZCF 369, 5.

en Glyndebourne revived never-died Il ritorno d'Ulisse a year, the Penelope was

Merica von Stade, a monu- ment of noble grief in her

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## Orpheus exuberantly emerges from the undergrowth

Offenbach: Orpheus in the Underworld. Mesples/Rhodes/Sénéchal Toulouse Orchestra/Plasson. HMV SLS 5175 (3 records), £13.95.

Massenet: Werther. Trovatos/Kraus/Manguerra. LPO/Plasson. HMV SLS 5183 (3 records), £13.95.

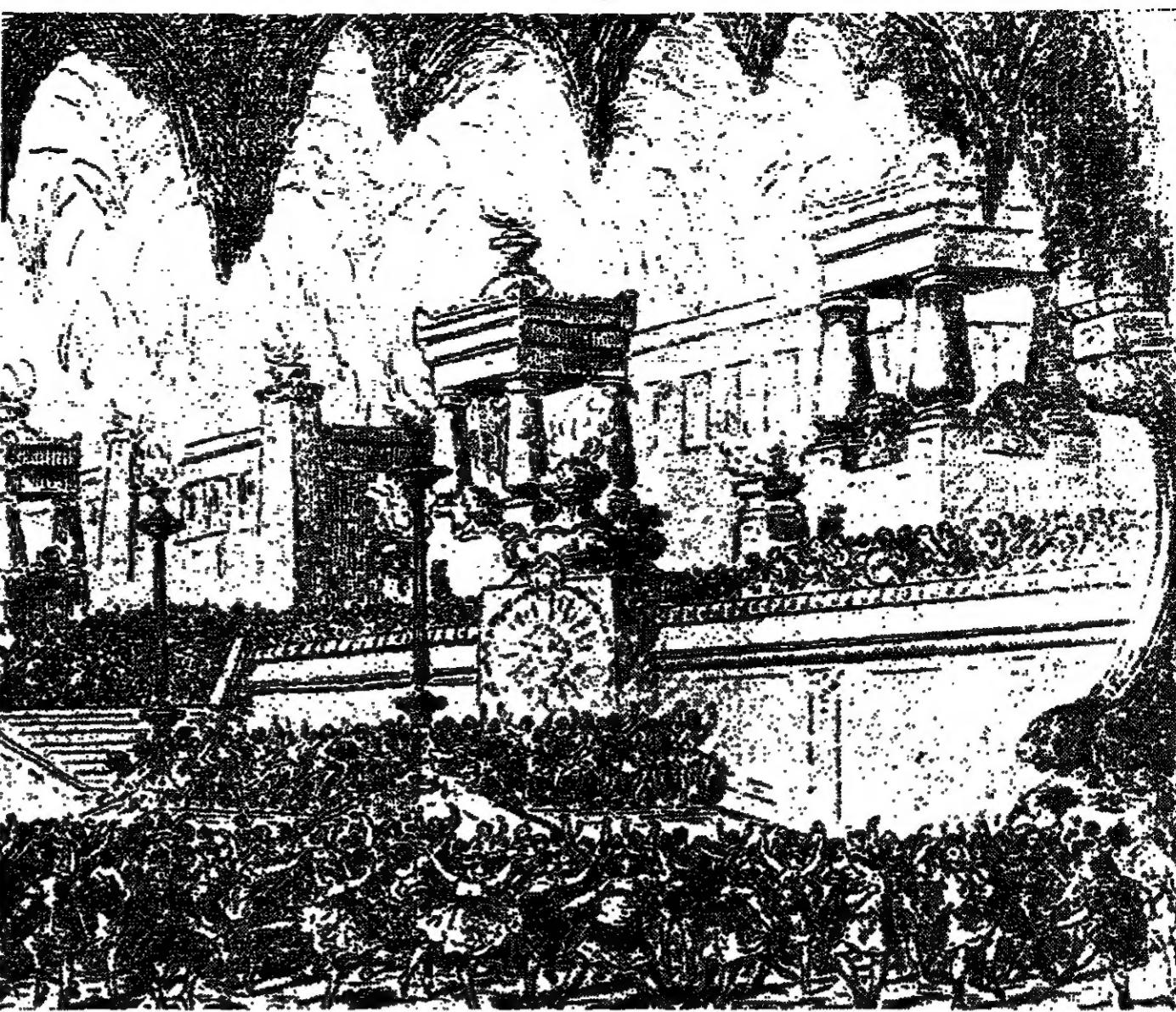
Mascagni: Cavalleria Rusticana. Scott/Domingo/Elvira/NPO/Levine. RCA RL 13091, £5.49.

Which of Offenbach's works contains a greater quantity of familiar and popular music than Orpheus aux enfers? The answer has to be none. Yet theatres recently have tended to avoid it. In this Offenbach centenary year Hoffmanns are sprouting from stages all round the world like September mushrooms, but where is the original Orpheus? And if opera houses have gently shown Orpheus the side exit then the situation among the record companies has been even worse. Anyone looking for a new Orpheus in the original language in this country would have been hard pressed to run one to earth.

A hint at the reason for this neglect is made in the brief and lively introduction by Maurice Tassart to EMI's issue this month. A set of three welcome because it fills one of the largest gaps in the lyric catalogue. As M. Tassart points out, Orpheus was Offenbach's first full-length work for the theatre. Earlier he had been confined to one-acters in the main. Several were admirably knitted together, like Mesdames de la Halle, which in a triple bill at the Salle Favart in Paris last Christmas, but when the chance came for Offenbach to spread his wings he seized his opportunity eagerly, and stretched his wings even further when he revived Orpheus in 1874.

Orpheus became a large-scale opera: four acts, 14 solo roles, two choruses. Staged properly it requires considerable resources and takes quite a time to perform—too long for the taste of several American operas, to whom EMI's Friedrich produced it at the Holland Festival a few years ago.

No one could accuse EMI of stinging on their new recording, which includes the ballet music and extra-aria songs which Handel's Orpheus cut to the bone but even so the six sides of the set



Stage design by Jules Chéret for the revival of Orphée aux enfers at the Gaité-Lyrique in 1874

are pretty well filled. The driving force behind this performance is clearly Plasson and his favoured forces from Toulouse, to whom EMI are now wisely entrusting most of their French operetta. Plasson conducts with a firm, gusto and wit which are at one with the mocking energy Offenbach displayed at the height of his powers. Nothing is sacred, least of all Gluck's Orfeo—a point worth noting by those who were 'appalled' by the Fidelio quote in the Covent Garden Fledermaus—and the

derivative high spirits have the flavour of an old-fashioned night with the Crazy Gang at the Victoria Palace. A little more of Plasson's youthful brio could have been injected into the cast, who in one or two cases are decidedly long in the musical tooth. In some instances it does not matter: Michel Sénéchal plays Orpheus as a middle-aged, down-at-heel music teacher, which is very close to the intention of Offenbach and his librettist, and the veteran mezzo Jane Rhodes is a poised

and incisive Public Opinion. On the other hand Mady Mesplé Jacks allure as Eurydice, lovingly phrased, the six-part Ricercar artfully architected. Admirable playing, as such, but without many new insights, and too occupied with surface polish to do justice to the vitality of the counterpoint. On the other record Seymour Goldberg proves a dependable soloist in the concertos, and the outer movements go well (except for the finale of the double, which is subject to unvarying jerks on the accelerator); but the slow movements are heavily done, and made to speak in tones of a rich expressiveness not native to them. Here too lighter articulation would have been welcome.

While talking of Bach issues I should refer to the new Archiv Privilege series, the first of which has just appeared, and which I have been sampling. These are reissues of notable early music recordings from the former days of Archiv, the days in which they were the highest quality of 'authenticity'. The authenticity of the 1960s and early 70s is now dated, of course; and what we have in effect are good, careful chamber-scale performances at bargain prices. The Bach items include Richter conducting the four suites finely disciplined playing, very precise in the dances, sometimes heavily handed; Ralph Kirkpatrick giving strong, taut readings of the three best-known harpsichord concertos; Walcha in a characteristically clear series of readings of some of the most popular organ works; and a most disc from St Thomas's, Leipzig, with some ragged and oddly tuned singing—I trust they did it better in Bach's day.

This series also includes three Handel records, German Handel playing rarely has the sparkle or the dash of the best English, but I enjoyed the steady, sensitive readings of the Op 3 concertos under Weninger and a cheerful record disc with the Fireworks Music (on wind instruments) and two other concertos, including some elegant playing in the Alexander's Feast concerto.

It is Telemann who provides my pleasant surprise in this month's records. His 12 solo violin fantasies do not have the breadth or the purposefulness of Bach's solo violin music—but not the strenuousness, either, for player and listener. And this often garrulous composer manages to contain his thoughts in nicely compact movements, a few of them contrapuntal, but mostly quite simple music, often in dance rhythms. They make attractive listening, especially in performance as adept as Arthur Grumiaux's vital, bright-toned playing, always rhythmic and alert.

Finally, let me draw attention to the excellent new version by London Sinfonietta members of Mozart's two big serenades for wind instruments—much beautiful playing, with nicely measured tempos and (apart from an oddly missing sustained note in the first movement of K375) finely and perceptively balanced detail.

Stanley Sadie

And here, immediately, arises the matter of choice. Werther will move during the course of a year from virtually no representation in the catalogue to providing a choice of three new sets, the third being the Philips version which has been recorded by Frederica von Stade and Jose Carreras under the baton of Sir Colin Davis.

So which to buy? The obvious answer for the cautious is to wait and listen. But, for the benefit of the impatient, the qualities of this EMI issue are its delicately romantic view of the score and the exquisite Charlotte of Tatiana Troyanos. I have not managed to catch her in the role on stage, although she has been singing it for some time now, but she manages to outpoint DG's Elena Obraztsova all the way along the line. Alfredo Kraus is far less involved than Domingo on DG, concentrating on making beautiful sounds, which he is indeed very adept at doing; and it could be argued that self-admiration is an important part of Werther's make-up, at least for the first half of the opera. The supporting casts are on a rough level, with EMI having a slight edge on the handling of French; neither company, though, has managed to come up with the ideal Albert.

RCA's single disc of Cavalleria Rusticana shows a sign of compression. The quality of the sound throughout is of the highest as too is the playing of the National Philharmonic under James Levine. The record makes one regret once again that Levine is so unwilling to spare time from his own house, the Metropolitan Opera, to come and conduct at Covent Garden. The cast has a distinct Mer feel about it, although Domingo, in thrilling voice throughout, has sung Turiddu at the Royal Opera. Renata Scotti is the Santuzza, carefully grading her emotion through the opera until her final outburst and Pablo Elvira, the Puerto Rican baritone who has just opened as Lescaut in the Met's Manon Lescaut, is a highly accomplished Alfio. The Karajan version on DG, recently reissued, has much to recommend it, but so too has this RCA set. Levine provides the fire and Karajan the sophistication: it depends on your preference.

John Higgins

## Tennstedt scales the Mahlerian mountain

ler: Symphony No 3. LPO/ntstedt. EMI SLS 5188 (2 sides). TC SLS 5188, £9.95.

ler: Symphony No 6. LSO/ine. RCA Red Seal RL 1312, £9.98.

liff: Symphony No 2; a from 'The Love of Three iger'. LPO/Weller. Decca 6945, £5.29.

liff: Alexander Nevsky. utova, LSO/Abbado. DG 202, £5.50; 3301 202, 5.

rk: Violin Concerto No 2. arma, Los Angeles PO/ra. CBS 76831, £4.99; 5631, £5.29.

rk: Viola Concerto; Hinde- i: Der Schwanendreher. ymni, Orchestre de Paris/ubini. DG 2531 249, £5.50.

tin: Petite Symphonie Con- ante; Bloch: Concerto No 1. Academy of St tudent-Fields/Marciner. ASD 3732, £5.40.

thoven: Piano Concertos 1 and 2. Lupu, Israel PO/its. Decca SXDL 7502, JKSXDC 7502, £5.50.

record industry may be in a way, but one would never s as much from the coming colossal outpouring of urican colossi. Nor would wish it different when the it is something like Klaus ussed's very spacious but very fluid, discerning and raneous performance of the h. This is not by any means account that seeks to ignore emotional weight of the e, yet neither does it force ie into the notes. Instead searching and ultimately passionate character comes elly from Tennstedt's cal response to the score, willingness to let the com- with the surge of ideas, his ecable sense of where as should travel uninter- edly from one instrumental to another, his confidence the long movements con-

tain their own structural integrity and their own drama.

Tennstedt has the rare ability to comprehend a work fully and intensely without being side-tracked by a special advantage in the case of Mahler's music, with its contradictory strains of triumph and disaster, sweet nostalgia and bitterness, resigned farewell and fierce struggle. When the great positions climaxes crash or dissolve into hallow-ness, as they so often do, Tennstedt is there to show the process as one of grand tragedy; the outcome is inevitable, not the spiteful twist of an embittered mind, and Mahler comes to seem a larger, more generous artist.

Nothing like the same splendid spirit is revealed in James Levine's recording of the sixth symphony. The dry and brittle rhythms make Mahler seem a naive follower of marching bands, not as in the first movement of the ninth under Tennstedt, a subtle musician who could give the effect of a square march without quite all its nuances. Levine's comparatively direct approach has its kind of success in the finale, which can take all the bombastic dynamism thrown at it, but he ruins any plain virtues the performance may have by interpreting the slow movement as an absurdly sugary piece of film music.

If in Mahler the London Philharmonic under Tennstedt far outstrip Levine's London Symphony, in Prokofiev honours are more evenly divided. Walter Weller completes his symphony cycle, in which he has used these orchestras, with a courageous assault on the monster No 2 deploying LPO forces, and Claudio Abbado leads the LSO in a brilliantly picturesque performance of Alexander Nevsky. The density of musical thought

here may be fairly low, but Abbado brings out all the finely etched detail of the music, coloured by the rude medieval clangour of its bells, and Elena Obraztsova, though sounding rather mature for a girl seeking her lost soldier lover, has the oppressed soul of Russia in her lament.

Weller's disc has much more interesting music with fragments from the extraordinarily inventive Love of Three Oranges score as prelude to the second symphony, which was written only five years later, in 1924, but which inhabits a different world of savage momentum and free-flowing fantasy in the second.

Among new concerto recordings, Pinchas Zukerman's of the Bartok No 2 is fine, perhaps too fine. He is of course bedazzled with pleasure for making light of the music's difficulties, allowing no suggestion that there are awkward turns of phrase, but this technical sovereignty seems to have led him into making the work altogether too easy and comfortable. The tang and the trickiness of Bartok's invention are virtually polished away, and Zubin Mehta's accompaniment is not one to remind the soloist of what he is losing: its ascendancy is rather to lend credence to the old story that Bartok was starting to write for brass American masters.

Even so, to turn to the same composer's posthumous Viola Concerto is to encounter quite a different level of beauty. Daniel Barenboim is no more successful than any previous performer in presenting this as a work worthy of Bartok and not something patched together from scraps by his pupil Tibor Serly. His smoky tone is much better employed in Hindemith's Der Schwanen-

drucker, a concerto on old folk-songs with accompaniment for a wind-heavy chamber orchestra.

Another cunning coupling of concertos is offered on the Academy's latest disc. Frank Martin's Petrus Symphonie Concerto for harp, harpsichord, piano and strings, a work as brilliantly formed as it is beautifully orchestrated, makes a welcome return to the catalogue, or at least most of it does; the piano has arrived surely enough, but the harp and harpsichord are still on their way, sounding dimly from the distance.

The companion work, Bloch's first concerto grosso of 1924-25, is given pre-eminence on the sleeve but placed on side two, and one can see why EMI were uncertain about it. It is a curious piece. Scored for string orchestra with obligato piano, it has four movements which run through the gamut of then contemporary music, from Stravinsky to Vaughan Williams while barely recalling at all the composer of Schelomo. Between the wars it was a great favourite; now, despite this excellent Academy performance, it appears as elderly remnant.

For real piano concertos, of course, there is Radu Lupu's new digital recording of Beethoven's first two. Maybe we will get used to the marvels of digital sound, but at the moment this is a real treat, with a greater keyboard presence—a greater sense of music commanded by ten digits, so to speak—than in any other recording I know. It is not just a matter of better sound quality, but also an increased awareness of the manual rhythm of piano performance.

Paul Griffiths

## Tureck's precision, or Gould's subjectivity

Bach: Goldberg Variations; Aria Variata. Tureck. CBS 79220, £9.99; 40-79220, £9.99.

Bach: Toccatas BWV 910, 912, 913. Gould. CBS 76881, £4.99.

Bach: A Musical Offering. Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields/Marciner. Philips 9500 585, £5.45; 7300 708 £5.60.

Bach: Violin Concertos in E and A minor; Double Concerto. Goldberg. Magyar/Netherlands CO. Philips 6570 010, £3.25; 7310 010, £3.40.

Teleman: 12 Fantasias. Grumiaux. Philips 9502 010, £3.75.

Mozart: Serenades K375 and 388. London Sinfonietta/Pay. ZRG 911, £2.99; KZRG 911, £2.95.

Archiv Privilege series. 2547 series, £2.95; 3347 series, £3.25.

The self-consciousness of the age we live in has a powerful, perhaps disturbing reflection in the two new Bach recordings by leading transatlantic exponents of his music. First there is Rosalyn Tureck, turning now to the harpsichord, after twice having recorded the Goldberg on the piano; then there is Glenn Gould, bringing to him a personal subjectivity of a kind that renders the music almost unrecognizable as product of the eighteenth century.

Miss Tureck's ideas have not changed in her instrumental migration. Still everything is thought out in the most meticulous detail, and executed with intense precision. True, she plays faster than before, as the instrument permits. Her great strength lies in her rhythmic control and her rigorous command of articulation. There is never, you feel, a moment when anything as undependable as fancy, or musical impulse, overtakes her didactic determination to play a particular phrase a particular way especially in her numerous would-be significant hesitations. It is of its kind a remarkable achievement, and one that compels admiration.

But her performances are so severely intellectual as to be almost devoid of natural musical expressiveness. A comparison with the scarcely less austere but more natural, less stilted, Gustav Leonhardt is revealing. Miss Tureck's fingerwork is as agile as ever, and her command in the brilliant variations is cool and complete. She includes all repeats.

Mr Gould's playing touches on nothing like authenticity, of course, not only because he uses a piano but because he freely adjusts matters of tempo and articulation to accommodate the music to his own exceedingly personal view of it. In these toccatas he brings a manic drive to the fugal sections, a tone of intense subjectivity to the slower music. Again, it is compelling, but too odd, too unBachian, to engage with the music as it was conceived. I am sure Mr Gould would be a fascinating interpreter of late Beethoven.

More conventionally expressive Bach comes on the two Philips discs. The St Martin's

## A post-romantic approach to Beethoven

thoven: Symphonies 1-9. y/Bernstein. DG 2740 216, 3378 090, £29.00.

A new publication brings the 25 of all nine symphonies Beethoven, currently available on record, up to more than 100, and it is Leonard Bernstein's second assault on nine. Most of us would rather to assemble our own section of Beethoven symphonies one at a time, selecting closely from the many rival versions. A serious lecturer, on the other hand, is to expose his own corpus of a whole corpus of one poster's music. The present comes as a potential danger for the other boxes in the Bernstein series, which in recent years for



Leonard Bernstein recording Beethoven in Vienna

musical interference is minimal. He has become a serious and imaginative Beethoven interpreter as youth has grown into seniority, and brilliant flair given way to mature mastery. My listening notes frequently mention the boldness and pugnancy of Bernstein's response

first movement of the Eroica, and in much of the Choral, the total orchestral sound is mightily impressive.

He has a sensible attitude to repeats: when in doubt, include them. He is also very perceptive with regard to transitions from one mood to another. I cannot but admire what he has done, and yet I find the results unsympathetic. Bernstein approaches Beethoven from a post-romantic direction, as a forerunner of Wagner and Brahms, not from the world of Haydn and Mozart which was his breeding-ground. The first two symphonies, even the Eroica, are made to orate in a blatant, over-demonstrative fashion which persists until the ninth, and tends to inflate charm into grandeur. The result is quite well, even so, and the fifth is superbly done. There are fine things in the Eroica and the seventh, but there are also vulgarities. In the choral finale of the ninth, the mass of sound tends to distort.

William Mann

## BEETHOVEN BERNSTEIN 9 SYMPHONIES VIENNA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Beethoven had always meant *universally* to me; ever since my early adolescence, when I first heard his unforgettable cry of "Brüder!". From that moment on, every piano sonata, violin sonata, trio, quartet and symphony (to say nothing of the Missa Solemnis) came to mean heart-to-heart communication, travelling satellite-fashion via the cosmos itself. But then I performed Beethoven with the Wiener Philharmoniker (in 1969, I believe) and it was the Missa, performed in the Staatsoper, with Beethoven's written hope that it would "go from heart to heart", and everything suddenly changed. True, it was still universal, in fact more so; but in Vienna, Beethoven's own city, and with that orchestra, his music suddenly acquired a sense of place in the universe, and seemed to elicit from my mind ever new ideas about the composer's deepest intuitions. And so it has remained, through *Fidelio*, the First Piano Concerto, the Quartet op. 151 performed with all 80 of the incomparable strings, and, of course, these Nine. I sincerely and humbly hope that some of those particularly Viennese insights, stimuli and provocations to fresh ideas of Beethoven's meaning are to be heard in this new set of the symphonies. I offer it to all music-loving ears as a testament of faith, and of my most profound reactions to this greatest of all composers.

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## PERSONAL CHOICE



Sutherland as Lucrezia Borgia in tonight's live transmission of Donizetti's opera from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (BBC 2, 7.30 and Radio 3, also at 7.30)

there is any justice left in the world, tonight will see an acting inversion of a revered adage, whereby one man's sin is many men's meat. Actually, it is one woman's poison, administered by Lucrezia Borgia during the live transmission of Donizetti's opera from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (BBC 2, 7.30 and Radio 3, also at 7.30). Sutherland sings the title role, with the Spanish tenor d'Arco as her illegitimate son Gennaro, and Richard Johnson as her husband, Don Alphonso. The two intervals on BBC 2 will be singing, and appropriately filled in. In the first (8.15), all see Michael Adams's film for Chronicle, The Legend of the Argonauts, filmed in their Italian palaces. In the second (9.25), Jean and Mr. Bonyngue, on film, talk about matters of the heart and possibly matrimonial, too.

Grand National Day again and the BBC, as ever, is making it of it. Grandstand (BBC 1, 12.30) comes direct from the race and the build-up to the race itself, at 3.20, is nothing more than a look-back over 21 years of the race, the training of today's runners, the likely prospects of the horses, with jockeys, scenes in the paddock, the weather and everything, in fact, except the price of hot-dogs. In top of all that, there is an action replay of the chase at 10.30 pm on BBC 1. Radio 2 does it all starting at 10 without pictures of course.

What is independent television doing while the BBC is graphing everything that moves at Aintree? It looks at the that's what. For the first time, the Oxford and Cambridge race is televised (1.00). Quick correction—the first time Ford v Cambridge Women's Boat Race, from Henley, is shown. And, at 3.10, there are highlights from last Monday's final of the Avon Women's Tennis Championship from Madison Square Garden: Martina Navratilova, Virginia Wade, Tracy Austin, and Billie Jean King et al. Exciting viewing, even though you may know what the outcome was.

Monday Night Theatre (Radio 4, 8.30) is James Follitt's new drama The Long, Lonely Voyage of the U-395. It is a tale and sounds like a corker. It tells how the U-boat towed 2,500 miles to safety in the south Atlantic. The rescue operation in naval history, I believe. David Buck the Kapitän.

THE SYMBOLS MEAN: \*STEREO; \*BLACK AND WHITE; \*REPEAT.

## PERSONAL CHOICE



Anna in the Agatha Christie murder thriller Why They Ask Evans? (ITV, 7.45-11.30), with a break at 10.55

ly O'Mahony's A Celebration of Sean O'Casey (BBC 2) is keyed to the centenary of the writer's birth. It consists of heads, separated by the occasional photograph and film, from O'Casey himself. It is, in short, radio pictures and its missed opportunities are legion. Why not his plays? Siobhán McKenna reads the odd bit of dialogue and where the appetite for more. Alas, there is none. The writer and O'Casey the man to frame the brilliant self-portrait as a man with a lament in one ear and in the other. His first performed play, The Shadow of a Gunman, is a second airing on Radio 4 at 7.30. Like the O'Mahony documentary, it is from the BBC's studios in the Ireland.

advice, in respect of Why Didn't They Ask Evans? (ITV) till 11.30 with a break for the news at 10.05) is as if it were a necessary engagement, take the telephone hook and most important—tell any fellow viewers there be that your lips will be sealed for the duration of the ad that the least they can do is to seal theirs, too. That you can look forward with confidence, I think, to a Christie yarn of exceptional quality and exceptional value. I must reiterate that you will need to keep your wits you all the way and especially during the denouement if you fully to appreciate the devilishly clever way in which the finger, after tracing the course of a cunning red herring, points to the killer who pushed the afternoon stroller off the cliff.

at else to recommend today? Without a doubt, the ding instalment of The History of Mr. Polly (BBC 1, 6.10), which has been a delight to look at and, usually, to listen to. Another general knowledge quiz, conducted by Bamber Gascoigne, 2.30. Police 5: Help Shaw Taylor to help Scotland Yard. 2.45 The Big Match: Highlights from three of yesterday's league games. 3.45 Film: Offbeat (1960). Modest British thriller, with Will John Sylvester as the police officer who joins the underworld, Mai Zetterling is the widow in his life.

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davale

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

9.05 am Baggy Pants and The Nitwits: Two cartoons, Horse Laft and Chicken Lady (r); 9.50 Champion, The Wonder Horse, and The Die Hards (r); 9.55 Gymnast: High Bar (r); 10.20 Zorro: Walt Disney serial; 10.30 Mickey Mouse Club: more Disney cartoons and a western serial: A horse called Comanche; 11.05 Film: Who Done It? (1955) Benny Hill as a silly private investigator, with foreign spies, with Belinda Lee, David Kossoff; 12.27 pm Weather; 12.30 Grandstand: Grand National Day. The big race itself is at 3.20 (fuller details, see Personal Choice); 12.45 Football Focus; 1.10 International Athletics: Mar-

tin Luther King Games, from Stanford University, California; 3.50 Rugby League: Hull v Widnes in the semi-final of the State Express Challenge Cup; 4.40 Final Score; 5.10 Pink Panther Show: two cartoons; 5.30 News; with Peter Woods; 5.40 Sport; 5.45 Rolf on Saturday OK? New series starring Rolf Harris. Acting, singing and painting, with ventriloquist Keith Harris as guest; 6.20 Wonder Woman: Phantom of the Roller Coaster. Drama in an amusement park; 7.10 All Creatures Great and Small: A man threatens suicide if his dog goes blind; 8.00 The Little and Large Show: Syd Little and Eddie Large, with star guests Sister Sledge; 8.35 Dallas: More about Sue Ellen's divorce action, and how J.R. plans his counter-attack; 9.25 News; with Peter Woods; 9.35 Match of the Day: Highlights from two First Division football matches, and a playback of the Grand National; 10.45 Saturday Night at the Mill: Presented by Bob Langley and Arianna Stassinopoulou. Guests include Ned Stierlin; 11.35 Phil Silvers as Sergeant Rikio: Another of the excellent American TV comedies; 12.00 Weather.

## BBC 2

7.40 am Open University: Begins with Revolution of 1848, and ends with Dynamic Aspect of NMR, which starts at 1.55 pm. Close down at 2.20; 2.35 Matt the Gooseboy: Cartoon from Hungary; Music by Lisa; 2.45 Chronicle: A Boy in the Country, with Justin Case and Peter Wear. Their guest is Mandy Patinkin; 4.10 Film: Ten Thousand Bedrooms (1957). Romantic comedy

with Dean Martin as a millionaire who goes hotel-hunting in Rome, with Eva Bartok and Anna Maria Alberghetti as sisters; 4.15 Harlowe: Margaret Earth. The effects of last Monday's film about the effects of the earth's magnetic field; 5.10 News; with Judy Lines and Bob Bond at Buckle's Hard; Hampshire, look at trailer/sellers on the market, suitable for the time; 7.15 News and sport; 7.30 Lucie Arnott: Live relay

## London Weekend

8.40 am Sesame Street: Early Muppet show; 9.40 The Reach: comers: Nick and Relic are stranded by a storm; 10.05 Super-man: Aest about a front page story; 10.30 Tiswas: Luscious show for children; 12.30 pm World of Sport: The line-up is: 12.35 On the Ball: Football round-up; 1.00 Rowing (Women's Boat Race, Oxford v Cambridge); 1.15 News; 1.20 The ITV Seven (racing from Salisbury at 1.30, 2.00, 2.30 and 3.00, and from Ayr at 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45);

3.10 Tennis (Avon Women's Championship final from New York); 3.50 Half-time scores; 4.00 Wrestling from Walton-on-Thames; 4.50 Results service; 5.05 News; 5.15 Dick Turpin: Battle of the villagers' grazing rights; 5.45 Mind Your Language: Language school comedy; 6.15 Film: Battle of the River Plate (1956). Spectacular British movie about the sea battle that led to the scrapping of the German pocket battleship Graf Spee; With Peter Finch, Anthony Quayle; 8.30 Enemy at the Door: Final

## FILMS ON TELEVISION

by David Robinson

The BBC always brings out its musicals for the holidays. Best Foot Forward (this afternoon, BBC 2, 4.05) is early (1943) MGM, with a high school plot of quite amiable silliness, jolly numbers and Lucille Ball in her prime. With Easter Parade (tomorrow, BBC 1, 1.35) comes 17 Irving Berlin numbers. In the evening, the BBC's so you can forgive the story, with Fred Astaire pulling Judy Garland out of the chorus to prove you make a star out of just anyone. Fanny Lady (tomorrow, BBC 1, 7.15) is strictly for Strindberg devotees, who must forgive what the BBC does to Fanny. The Man of La Mancha (Wednesday, BBC 2, 8.30) was made when they'd already forgotten how to do musicals, and mistakenly belatedly after My Fair Lady, that straight actors (here Peter O'Toole and Sophia Loren) could do just as well in them.

On Thursday they weigh in with the epic, Robert Rossen's rather solemn 1955 Alexander the

Great (BBC 2, 4.20), with Richard Burton in the title role. For Good Friday there is Nicholas Ray's Of Kings and Men (BBC 4, 4.15), with Philip Yordan's self-conscious literary script, and Jeffrey Hunter in the lead.

Before that there is Born Free (BBC 1, 2.15) in which the animals are irresistible and the humans are not. In the evening (BBC 1, 7.30) is The Land That Time Forgot, a jolly Edgar Rice Burroughs adventure with notable special effects for the production. In the world, finally, annoyingly late on Friday (BBC 1, 11.40) there is a rare chance to see Love Among the Ruins, perhaps the last, and one of the best collaborations of George Cukor, the director, with Katharine Hepburn, the Angela Thirkield story is about an elderly lawyer (Laurence Olivier) who discovers that the grande dame he's defending on breach of promise is, in fact, an old flame.

## Sunday's programmes

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

9.00 am Baggy Pants: Story for children; 9.15 Mai Zindagi Naya Jeevan: Newswave music and stories for Asian viewers; 9.50 Prescription for Complaints: Comedy training film about customer service; With John Cleese, Penelope Keith; 10.10 The Skill of Lip Reading: Visit to a do-it-yourself shop (r); 10.30 News; 11.00 News; 11.30 News; 11.55 News; 12.00 News; 12.30 News; 1.00 News; 1.30 News; 1.55 News; 2.00 News; 2.30 News; 3.00 News; 3.30 News; 4.00 News; 4.30 News; 5.00 News; 5.30 News; 6.00 News; 6.30 News; 7.00 News; 7.30 News; 8.00 News; 8.30 News; 9.00 News; 9.30 News; 10.00 News; 10.30 News; 11.00 News; 11.30 News; 12.00 News; 12.30 News; 1.00 News; 1.30 News; 2.00 News; 2.30 News; 3.00 News; 3.30 News; 4.00 News; 4.30 News; 5.00 News; 5.30 News; 6.00 News; 6.30 News; 7.00 News; 7.30 News; 8.00 News; 8.30 News; 9.00 News; 9.30 News; 10.00 News; 10.30 News; 11.00 News; 11.30 News; 12.00 News; 12.30 News; 1.00 News; 1.30 News; 2.00 News; 2.30 News; 3.00 News; 3.30 News; 4.00 News; 4.30 News; 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## PARLIAMENT, March 28, 1980

## World of vast disparities: aid programme of £700m after cuts

House of Commons

There was no wonder that the Brandt Commission report on international development issues presented a bleak and sombre picture, for it was bleak and sombre, Mr Robert Rhodes James (Cambridge, C) said when opening a debate on the report.

If the report erred on the side of pessimism, he said, it must be bluntly admitted there was a lot to be pessimistic about. A world of vast disparities of wealth, was not one that caused any optimism.

Mr Rhodes James said he was concerned at the almost universal parochialism of contemporary British politics. These dismal attitudes were not only contrary to national character and interest but out of tune with public opinion in the nation, but particularly among young people.

Although reservations could be made about certain recommendations of the Brandt-Commission report, there were many positive features. It was right to emphasise the need for a more radical approach to international development issues.

Commodities were the international policies of the future. If the international community could drastically improve the present commodity situation, results would be dramatic in resolving many global economic problems.

Both producers and the industrial nations needed a guarantee of supply, some party between the cost of raw materials on one hand and equipment and technology on the other.

Mr Eric Deakin (Waltham Forest, Labour, C) said the report was a warning to the world that the world was in a state of crisis. It was a warning to the world that the world was in a state of crisis.

The Labour Party was moving towards a policy which would be a warning to the world that the world was in a state of crisis. It was a warning to the world that the world was in a state of crisis.

Mr Michael Shanks, chairman of the National Consumer Council, told the Government last night that it was short-sighted, at a time of economic stringency, to dispense with consumer consultation.

Launching the 1980 National Consumer Congress in Sheffield, Mr Shanks said that although the Government was introducing legislation to give council tenants more say in running estates and parents places on boards of school governors, consumer consultation was at risk in other fields.

In particular he hoped the Government would not dispense with community health centres, as suggested in the Green Paper on the National Health Service.

A survey commissioned by the Consumer Council has shown consumers considered the health service more in need of a watchdog than any other public service.

"Public services in general are not subject to the disciplines of the marketplace," Mr Shanks said. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said he was pleased to hear of the council's information about the use of ratepayers' money. The same principle should be applied to all public services.

In a climate of public spending cuts it was essential to have sound information about the costs of services, the results of particular policies and costed alternatives.

"We need some performance targets and lots of comparative information. We need adequate redress for consumers who suffer loss," Mr Shanks said.

On January 22 she was arrested and detained, although the three months leave had not yet expired. In the meantime, by a letter of January 19, she had applied for an extension.

The Secretary of State in an affidavit said that Dassu was approached by one, Raju, who told her that he was a member of the Communist Party of India, who had been in India and discussed with his sister, the applicant's mother, the prospect of the applicant's marrying him.

Dassu agreed to marry the applicant for £700. On the day of the applicant's arrival, Dassu went to the airport and showed his passport to the immigration officer and the applicant was allowed to enter.

Then interviewed in January 1979, Dassu told the authorities that he had sponsored four girls who had come to the United Kingdom for the purpose of marrying him, and he had no intention of marrying any of them.

It was submitted for the Secretary of State that she entered in breach of the immigration laws as leave was obtained by fraud, and consequently was not a genuine wife and had no intention of marrying him.

The question was whether a valid permission to enter had been granted, if permission to enter was obtained by fraud then according to the principle in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Kahn* (1977) 1 W.L.R. 1461 that leave was void.

His Lordship found it impossible to distinguish the facts of *Kahn* from the facts of the present case.

However, the applicant relied on the *Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Kahn* (1977) 1 W.L.R. 1461, where the applicant had not been asked any questions and was not under a duty to disclose his changed circumstances and so he was not guilty of making any false representation.

In his Lordship's opinion, however, there were many differences on the facts between *Mangon Khan* and the present case. Here a positive misrepresentation was made to the immigration officer and that representation was the foundation of the grant of permission to enter.

On the truth of that representation that the officer granted leave, in *Mangon Khan*, the applicant made no positive representation of any kind; in the present case there were false representations, the one fraudulent, the other innocent. That being so, in his Lordship's judgment, the present case was governed by the principle enunciated by Lord Justice Megaw in *Kahn*, and accordingly the application must be refused.

Mr Justice Watkins agreed. Solicitors: Mr Gordon Cunningham, Bolton; Treasury Solicitor.

Law Society qualifying exams—Part 1

The following were successful in the subjects indicated in the Law Society's Part 1 qualifying examination held on February 6:

REDA

State for Trade (South Hertfordshire, C) said that the Government welcomed the report. Trade was 35 times more significant than aid.

In three aspects the report was notable: its comprehensive scope; its analysis and cogent account of the problems of the world, and particularly the developing world; and, in its timeliness, when governments all over the world were becoming obsessed with saving their own economies.

Massive increases in aid in current circumstances would imply major changes in the economic strategies of all western countries with considerable implications for the fight against inflation which must remain the major priority.

The cuts in overseas aid in the budget, like all public expenditure cuts, were painful but inevitable. The most shameful incidents in recent years had been when Britain became the biggest creditor of the IMF in 1976 and pre-empted a huge slice of its scarce resources to prop up a standard of living Britain was not earning. Despite the cuts, the aid programme would remain substantial at £700m.

They must not allow global negotiations to slow down bilateral ones.

They should not see the developing countries as a threat but recognize that more and more they would not be passengers of the world economy but a vital part of the motor which ran it.

All countries, and not just the governments of the western world, had a part to play in solving development problems. The Brandt commission had rightly urged the inadequate participation of the developing countries in the world economy.

Wealth was not created by governments. Wealth had to be created before it could be distributed either nationally or internationally.

Mr Harry Greenway (Eding, North, C) said there had been gross failure by the churches, schools and other educational bodies to educate people as to precisely what the brotherhood of man meant.

The debate concluded. The Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Bill passed its remaining stages.

House adjourned 3.3 pm.

Consumer appeal to save health service watchdogs

By Robin Young

Consumer Affairs

Mr Michael Shanks, chairman of the National Consumer Council, told the Government last night that it was short-sighted, at a time of economic stringency, to dispense with consumer consultation.

Launching the 1980 National Consumer Congress in Sheffield, Mr Shanks said that although the Government was introducing legislation to give council tenants more say in running estates and parents places on boards of school governors, consumer consultation was at risk in other fields.

In particular he hoped the Government would not dispense with community health centres, as suggested in the Green Paper on the National Health Service.

A survey commissioned by the Consumer Council has shown consumers considered the health service more in need of a watchdog than any other public service.

"Public services in general are not subject to the disciplines of the marketplace," Mr Shanks said. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said he was pleased to hear of the council's information about the use of ratepayers' money. The same principle should be applied to all public services



# Travel I

Photograph by Linda Christman

**OST**



PHOST-MAKER

WEN GLWYD



# The unknown factor in the rig disaster

A disaster of the scale which has hit the mobile accommodation rig, Alexander Kielland, in the North Sea, involving so great a loss of life, is bound to raise questions over the long-term safety of all semi-submersibles operating offshore.

The accident has come as a profound shock to all in the offshore industry. Of all disasters, it was the last they expected to occur. Oilmen continually fear a "blow-out" with crude gushing uncontrollably from a well in scenes reminiscent of early petroleum exploration in the United States. The worst imaginable disaster is that such an oil gusher could catch fire, incinerating workers and equipment alike.

All safety procedures are designed with the blow-out in mind. It is an unhappy coincidence that the only one to occur so far in the North Sea which has run out of control was in the same Ekofisk complex of fields operated by the American independent, Phillips Petroleum, in which the Alexander Kielland overturned.

Blow-outs are a risk that all offshore workers know they are taking as soon as they step on a working drilling rig. The risk of capsizing in most circumstances is inconceivable.

The loss of the Alexander Kielland is, so far, inexplicable. Although weather conditions were severe, they were not so severe by North Sea standards that they should have come anywhere near threatening the design limits of this type of rig. Displacing 12,400 tons, it would be capable of taking a deckload of at least 2,000 tons. It has relatively luxurious accommodation, including the ill-fated cinema in which many

men may have perished, for more than 200 workers. The size, in short, of a small hotel, with space left for a drilling derrick, and helicopter pad. It would have automatically tensioned wire rope anchors and was capable of moving under its own power.

The design—a Pentagon type with five legs resting on ballasted pontoons working on a similar principle to a submarine to keep the structure stable in a swell—was well tried. Similar rigs operating around the world in the United Kingdom sector alone 22 are being used for drilling. Either as accommodation or drilling rigs they should shrug off storm 10 winds and 35 ft waves. Only the kind of storm which would be the worst for 100 years should be a risk.

If the storm had been near to the worst example in, say, 60 years, the accident might have been understandable. Estimates of breaking strains can never be foolproof. The storm that sent this rig over, was not of that magnitude.

Some failure must therefore have occurred. The question all North Sea companies need to know with urgency is could it happen again?

The accident that happened to the Alexander Kielland is not the first to happen in the North Sea. In 1965, Sea Gem, a rig which had been drilling for gas, capsized as it was preparing to move off location with the loss of 13 lives. Comparison between Sea Gem and the Alexander Kielland, however, is limited. The rigs were of completely different type and in the intervening years far more has been learnt of the fatigue caused to metal structures by the North

Sea wind and waves. Recommendations in a report after the Sea Gem disaster should have ensured that the Alexander Kielland was so designed that no single failure would have caused a major accident.

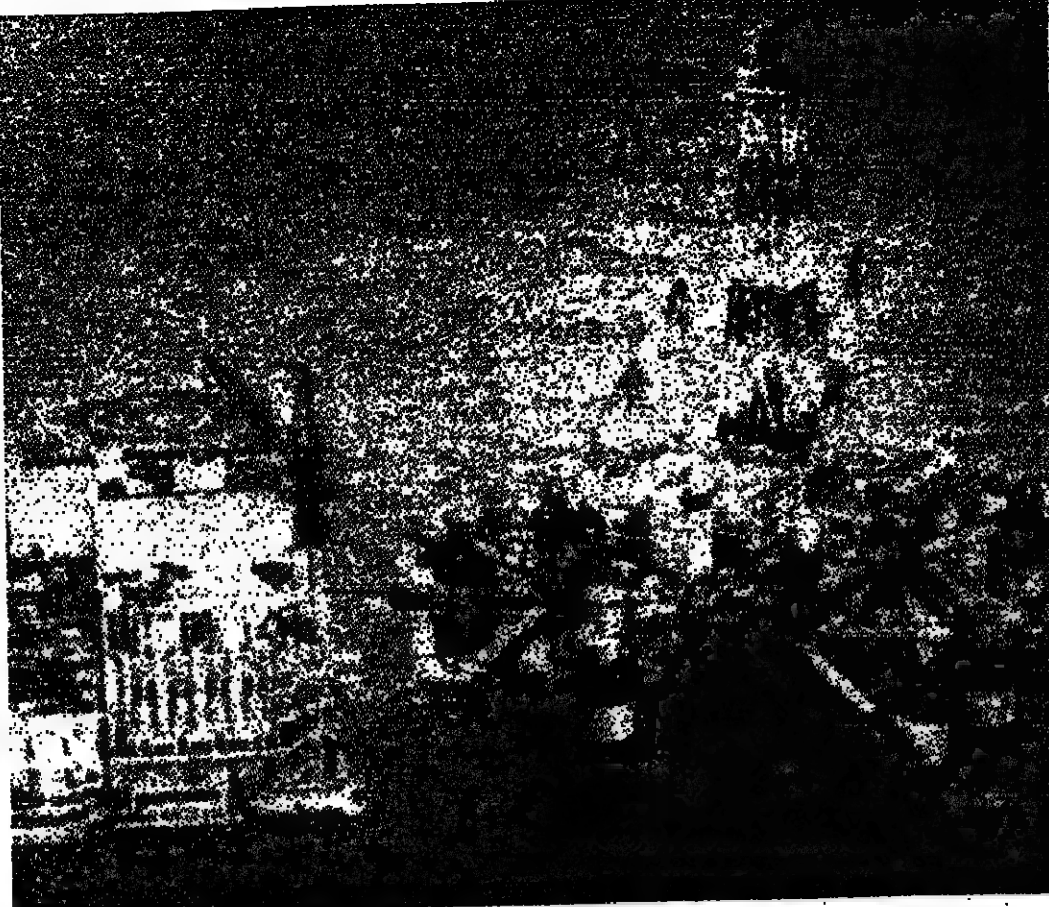
Sudden failure should simply not occur. The speed with which the Ekofisk rig overturned, giving so little time for the well-drilled evacuation procedures to be put into effect, is intensely worrying. Until it is known whether poor inspection was a contributory cause to the accident, the prospect remains that extensive and time consuming modifications will need to be made, delaying both exploratory drilling and development work.

Any question mark over the semi-submersible's long-term future is the last thing the oil industry needs at this juncture.

Norway prides itself on its offshore safety procedures. It believes that they are stricter than those imposed by any other country. Britain's energy department believes that while its own regulations may not be as strict as those of Norway they are nevertheless as effective.

This view was challenged by a dissenting note in the committee of Offshore Safety set up under the chairmanship of Dr Jack Burgoyne, an industrial safety consultant, to review the accident.

The dissenting note was signed by the two trade union representatives and backed by the Trades Union Congress. Norway has removed the responsibility for safety from the Department of Energy to a separate safety executive. Evi-



Before the capsizing: the Alexander Kielland (right) alongside its production rig.

dence was given to the committee that this provided a tougher inspection system than in the United Kingdom and it was recommended, against the majority opinion of the committee, by the TUC and the trade union representatives, that evidence there is, however, suggests that there is little difference between the accident record of the British and Norwegian systems. In fact the far outweighs anything that has occurred before that it looks likely to outstrip all fatalities from offshore working for the past five years. Between 1974 and 1979 there were 54 deaths,

16 from diving, and 212 serious accidents. Several recommendations were made by the Burgoyne committee to improve the accident record offshore, but principally the report was concerned with everyday industrial mishaps which occur at heights, and with emergency procedures for blow-outs. Any inquiry into the latest disaster will need to consider the workings and inspections of the independent certifying authorities, which satisfy themselves as to the seaworthiness of mobile rigs before allowing them to set sail. There is some

dispute over safety classifications of mobile platforms used as offshore hotels between the United Kingdom Department of Energy and the Offshore Operators' Association. This will now be sorted out with some urgency. Burgoyne considered the independent certifying authorities worked well. The questions remaining over the possibility of capsizing and the equipment available for rescue are legion. Until it is known what the cause of the accident was, and a possible generic defect is rectified, lives may be at risk.

Nicholas Hirst

Fred Emery

## The finest persuader in sight

The Budget could in future be put over on television, in about 15 minutes. In Sir Geoffrey Howe we have an excellent performer. Direct to camera (if not in interviews) he is probably the most effective and natural persuader in this country. Certainly he is far better on the box than at the Despatch Box. As viewers saw on Wednesday evening, he managed, with the odd chart, to put the message across. But which message?

For among the political questions hanging fire after all that has been said about the Budget is whether the Government is able to make up its mind how to present itself. Is it to be austere? Or is the line: hold on a bit, before prosperity takes off?

On television it struck me, at least, that Sir Geoffrey was giving a far more upbeat promise of reward than he had in the very cautious Budget speech. There, after two hours, it was only in his last words that he was sure that success was within our grasp. After all, democratic politicians must hold out some hope.

But by evening, after an appeal for patience, it was talk after a couple of years of things turning right again. By the next day, although it had already

though before things get the Government is in need all the cooperation get to bring inflation down. Yet it has deli- ciously away from popular steps that could make an impression on members, if not their ship (as well as on so backbenchers). Child, the one payment that working as well as non families, is the obvious a cut in real terms: it is deliberately the aim for although nominally in line with the Rook amendment it is cur- dented by the Chi abolition of the 25 per band on the first £75 able income.

The Government's advocates of child is that they should Government how to it. Well, of course, they most obvious point put up the price of d tobacco as the news- the event, wrongly, but for which the Go gets now no credit for.

The reason why, Thatcher admitted at Time, was that "the C was careful not to go to Retail Price Index."

Ministers bel pay negotiators are t by the RPI, and not flattered by social me other words, the r round hinges on the all the fuss over it wage being raised. But there is surely element to the policy. The Government has ately set out in its term strategy to play cautiously as possible even gone to the point Lawson's tax cutting

of understanding growth over the years, in the expectation when the Government will be better for net aroused expectation highly.

There is obvious turning away from the over-optimism of the of the last Labour go. But under-estimating be unrealistic. They u

'The Govern retort to th advocates of c benefit is th they should the Governmen to pay for i Well they did

are not such fools that not read. And if the that improvements be deliberately played d will ask for more. The politics of the B certainly not going neglected by the Opposition. They divided among them- selves what the alternatives s but they can cer- tainly enough mischief to r measures look eve socially divisive than t the Government does t-

And there is a real between the Hesley Howe approach. Basic as Mr Joel Barnett e last week, that Labour Treasury Min not believe that pub- diture can go on being the way the Govern poses, especially in imediate recession ahead. The former Ch argument that the cur so rigorous it will p "terminal decline" o industry causes many behind the Tory smiles

'Sir Geoffrey can be acquitted, I am sure, of the baser charges that he has set out to attack certain sections of the community'

been in the fine print of the Budget, there was talk of getting income tax right down in two years' time. Mr Nigel Lawson had already made one splash with his generous interpretation of a Budget document that he thought opened the way to Britain's economic crisis. Now the Treasury secretary to the Treasury, he has discussed at a news conference the options, if the Government's economic strategy worked, from 1983 onwards to "accommodate a 25 per cent basic rate of tax."

The obvious question arises here regarding the Chancellor's most emotive Budget change. If recovery is only two years away, thanks to North Sea oil and the Government's tightening of public spending, how on earth, when more unemployment is inevitable in the interim, can it be justifiable to cut the value of unemployment and other short-term social security benefits?

The Government's answer is that those on benefit must bear their share of the general decline. But fair shares can have a bitter taste. Are not those being made unemployed thereby suffering a worse decline than those remaining in work? The Maimaining benefits in line with the rise in prices would not, after all, imply any real increase.

The Chancellor, of course, declared that "clearly no action we take should be at the expense of the really weak and needy." But will all con- sciences be saved by seeing their number grow?—and so ensure that they will fall inside the "safety net." In which admittedly, generous provision has been made? Sir Geoffrey can be acquitted. I am sure, of the baser charges that he has deliberately set out to attack certain sections of the community. But nonetheless, by his political insensitivity, he allows both the Labour Party and the unions to make great play with the notion that all the Conservatives wish to do is gratify some populist urge to punish people seen as deliberate scroungers or wayward strikers.

For, on the basic point, if we are to pass through a two-year

breaking rules deliberately is not. That is why those 30 demonstrators sitting on the grass of a public park are a test case for Vienna's tolerance of its homegrown dissidents rather than those from the Soviet bloc to whom the city has opened its gates without reserve.

John Karter

in the vast, extra-territorial and isolated United Nations city complex.

Vienna's *Gemlichkeit* is there, for the tourist, at the drop of a coin. For the Viennese it has died with the demise of the Wiener Kaffeehaus. They still kiss your hand—if you are female—but you feel you ought to count your fingers afterwards.

The Viennese cling desperately to their titles, their rules and regulations, their monuments and their jobs. *Schlemperci*, the nonchalant breaking of rules by pure carelessness, which recently put a couple of hundred invalid and elderly clients of the meals on wheels service in hospital with food poisoning, is tolerated.

Breaking rules deliberately is not. That is why those 30 demonstrators sitting on the grass of a public park are a test case for Vienna's tolerance of its homegrown dissidents rather than those from the Soviet bloc to whom the city has opened its gates without reserve.

Sue Masterman

## Must Becher's be so lethal?

### Sportsworld

A distinguished racing journalist, settling down recently to the arduous task of tipping the Grand National winner, described the race National the pastas. I realize that it's not a race but a battle for survival. It cannot be coincidence that the same few horses complete the course year after year.

Although the race itself is quite an indictment of what is often called "the world's greatest steeplechase," many who watch the horrific series of falls each year would go much further, even to the point of saying that the race should be stopped altogether. The RSPCA do not go that far, but they are pressing for substantial changes.

Eight horses have been killed in the past 10 Nationals; not an astoundingly high figure perhaps, but eight too many in the Society's view. Of the four and a half miles and 30 fences, some of which are uniquely har- dous, stretches it to its limit and constitutes cruelty. (On Thursday a horse was put down after falling at the Chair fence in a race on the National course).

To reduce the number of riderless horses which create havoc, the Society would like to see a stiffer system of qual- ifying, a maximum of 25 runners and even more "escape routes" that have been introduced recently. They would also like to see the infamous Becher's Brook and Chair fences, in particular, made considerably less dangerous.

When a horse approaches Becher's for the first time in its life it has no idea of the fearsome 12ft 9in drop on the other side. The RSPCA in- spector who watched last year's National compared it to a diver training on a three-metre board and then being asked to dive from a 10-metre board in competition.

"But it wouldn't be the National!" comes the indignant chorus from racing professionals when presented with these sug- gestions. Toby Balding, chair- man of the National Hunt com- mittee of the National Trainers Federation, appears to voice the opinion of most of his colleagues

when he says that he is quite happy with the safety aspect of the race. Peter Easterby, the champion trainer, whose Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Alvarion, was killed at Becher's last year, says he would not hesitate to run another horse in the race.

Defenders of the National are also quick to point out that the fences were eased considerably in the 60s. Nevertheless it is hard to dispute that the race does push horses to its limit. Golden Miller, the brilliant winner of five Gold Cups, won the National at the first time of asking in 1934 but refused to go round Aintree on three sub- sequent occasions.

Anne, Duchess of West- minster, refused to risk Arkle, successful in three Gold Cups, and the Irish Grand National and generally regarded as the greatest steeplechaser of all time, over the course.

There are those who say the National epitomises the "glorious uncertainty" of racing, because it is so fearfully demanding, but often it is reduced to an inglorious farce. The element of luck is too high for it justifiably to be called a great race.

You can take the best jumper in the world to Aintree but if there is a pile-up in front of him or he puts a foot even marginally wrong at Becher's or any of the other "drop" fences he will end up just another crumpled heap or horseflesh. This can happen, as any steeplechase, of course, but at Aintree the chances are in- creased tenfold.

To say that the race would lose its character and appeal as a spectacle if more horses stood a chance of completing the course is absurd. If you take that view then why not bring back the brick wall which they used to jump in the early years of the race, the first run- ning of which was won by the aptly-named Lottery?

If at least the most lethal fences were turned from har- dards into challenging but reasonably negotiable obstacles, horses running about hap- hazardly, not only would it still be the National but it would be a much grander National, worthy of the title "the world's greatest steeplechase".

John Karter

## Long faces in Harry Lime country

### Letter from Vienna

Spring in Vienna. The crocuses bloom. Thirty demonstrators sit on the grass in the Burggarten Park because it is forbidden to sit on the grass. The police, unused to such overt civil disobedience in a city where one can still, more or less, walk the streets alone at night in safety, say they have been provoked to the extreme. Next time they might lose their temper.

Almost 30 per cent of Vienna's voting population turned out a fortnight ago to give their opinion on subjects varying from the desirability of a new motorway to the future of dissolved cemeteries. The rest did not bother, either through sheer lack of interest or because they felt that the politicians would ignore the results.

Three more heroin addicts have been found dead in a city which is becoming a main transit point for drug runners from

East and West. There is the usual quota of suicides, in a country which has the second highest suicide rate, and a couple of shootings between drunken rivals, no uncommon event in a city where it is ex- ceptionally easy to buy firearms and where a serious and in- sufficiently recognized alcohol problem.

A forlorn group of Russian Jewish emigrants leave the train which has brought them to freedom and are shepherd- ed by commandos bristling with arms and ammunition through the Sudbahnhof station hall to the waiting buses which will spirit them away to temporary quarters before they pass on to Israel or America. Their first glimpse of the civilized West is the station hall, the meeting place for Vienna's Yugoslav and Turkish foreign workers and city vagrants.

The tourist buses are back again. From the plush, air-con-

ditioned security of their interior the tourists only glimpse the grey facade between the massive relics of the Habs- burg empire as they pay obliga- tory homage to the royal ar- ches, the Lipizzaner horses, the crown jewels, the art galleries, the Prater funfair, with its Harry Lime ferris wheel, and the opera before being discharged into the sterile neutrality of an international hotel. Carl Böhm at the Opera, Heimito on television... Oh, Heite Wilk!

One has to stay a little longer to wonder why the average Viennese goes about his or her business with a face as long as all the fiddles in the Wiener Philharmonia. The Viennese do not like to be told they are unfriendly but admit that they are.

The Wien International, the organization sponsored by the city authorities to help and

advise the 46,000 foreigners in the city, many of the United Nations employees, received 400 offers of help pinpointing the problem earlier this year. This response they regarded as "overwhelming".

### The essence of the problem

Vienna has a population of around one and a half million in a country of around seven and a half million, and is thus affectionately known as the *Wasserkopf*, the hydrocephalus.

One who are their own best critics, have summed up the essence of the problem. Vienna is a capital too big for the rump of an empire left to it after two world wars. It was built for the Austro-Hungarian empire's proportions and is populated by people whose roots have been rudely amputated by the Iron Curtain.

## Girls bound to be fit

The boards of the Albert Hall will rattle today with the rhythmic patter of thousands of bare female feet and the slap of tons of firm female flesh in unison. The Women's League of Health and Beauty is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary with a jubilee display, which is the nearest thing in our tired world to a Commem Ball for disciplined maenads and teetotal Bacchantes.

Members of the League from New Zealand, Canada and South Africa will trail clouds of taste- ful chiffon as they leap like heavy Oreads. A thousand British women aged from two to 80, dressed in black pants and white blouses, will do things in concert to their bodies that will make unathletic spectators rupture in sympathy.

The highlight will be a tribute to the founder, Mrs Bagot Stack. More than 200 old girls from the 1930s, who still do their weekly dressage and jumping, will perform something called a waist-mobilizing sequence. Nearly 200 league teachers will stand on their shoulders and do things with their legs behind their heads that will make muscle-bound men wince and look away.

The founder's daughter, Prunella Stack, will deliver a pious but inspiring oration to the dextrous regiment of house- wives sitting on the floor in tidy ranks.

Mary Bagot Stack was a

beautiful but delicate young woman who had been taught remedial exercises at a period when women were not encour- aged to take exercise or think about their bodies. Her hus- band, an officer in the Gurkhas, was killed early in the First World War; Mary was left with her living to earn and no train- ing except her knowledge of her body. She started to train girls in health exercises. Then in 1930, Whambo! She had her vision of the road to salvation through physical fitness.

Health and Beauty were but the stepping-stones to the ideal of Universal Love and Service: "We must cross the stepping stones before we can reach that beautiful country beyond." In her own words, which are as breathless as her exercises make one: "I set my hard- faced friend—my alarm clock—to 6.45 am. When it rang with that slap on the brain which sends all day and night dreams flying, I jumped out of bed, said my prayers, had a cold bath, opened my windows, stripped off my clothes, and set

going on my gramophone the gayest jazz tune I could find, and I exercised around my bedroom. In physical bliss but mental blankness."

She breathed deeper. She leaped higher. In a flash of vision came: "A league of women pledged to BREATHE, to LEAN—and, above all, to THINK."

Her 30,000 epigoni today know that their League is much more than mere eurythmic circuit training in Chopin. It is a sort of religion which will give you not just sparkling eyes, a clear skin, a trim figure and regular bowel movement, but also the secret of inner peace. They have the glossy smiles of hot gossellers who know the simple secret of the universe and are bursting to tell you if you don't side-step quickly.

Mother Fitness spoke of "the outer radiance of inner har- mony". Her daughter Prunella says: "We alter the way they think about their lives; so many cases of depression come from the body."

The secret of inner harmony

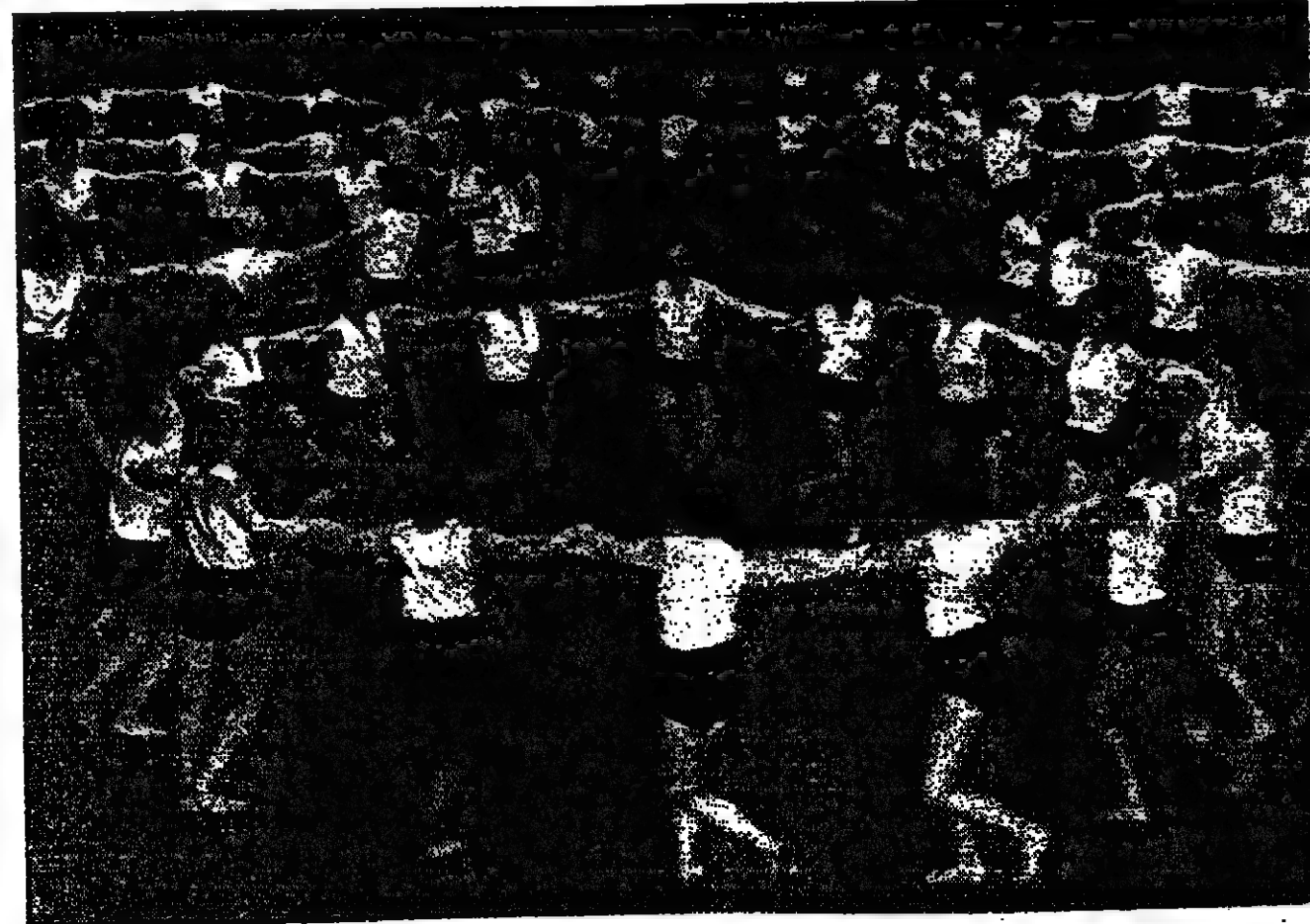
is not yet available to men, dammit, although there are male members of the council and husbands are allowed to do a bit of chaste leaping at the bisexual Easter holiday camp. Otherwise, for the present, procul, O procul este, profani.

Prunella says: "There is no theological objection to men. But my mother's exercises and ideas about anatomy, phys- iology and kinesiology were particularly devised for women. Perhaps we shall admit men one day."

Do they realize that unbelieve- rs find their activities some- times a bit, well (you know that reporters have to ask these things) funny? "Oh, yes. We laugh at ourselves. We don't take ourselves desperately seriously. There is compani- onship and fun in doing things en masse that one would be embarrassed to do on one's own."

So today the girls (as they call each other, irrespective of age) will stride magnificently into the Albert Hall to the League anthem "Marching Feet" to celebrate 50 years and to continue their endearing pursuit of Health, Beauty, Energy and Spiritual Fitness.

Philip Howard



Followers of the Mary Bagot Stack vision: breathe, leap, think...





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## THE KAMPUCHEAN COCKPIT

Outside aid has temporarily alleviated the appalling sufferings of Kampuchea but the problem far from solved. There is still danger of severe famine rearing, especially if planting the next rice crop is insufficient. It would therefore be a great relief if western aid dried up after so much effort. A maelstrom of this has now come from members of the United States Congress who have introduced a resolution calling for more American and international aid, for the withdrawal of foreign troops, and for the convening of an international conference to end the fighting and establish a representative government in Kampuchea.

Fortunately, there has been a reduction in the fighting. Then the dry season began in Kampuchea last November the Khmer Rouge resumed their campaign against the Khmer Rouge guerrillas, reducing the territory they held but not driving them out of the borders. Since then a campaign seems not to have been pressed. Perhaps Vietnam's appalling economic condition is at last assumed the greater priority; perhaps the Russians, a sole source of military supplies, think it better for the Khmer Rouge government to look after those people it does administer than to bother with the urgent task of monetary support. Territorial who cannot hope to restore their power. Nor least, it may be thought that Vietnam's international status could not benefit from yet another fierce campaign filling the media with counts of a new flood of refugees crossing into Thailand.

Any case this abstention from campaigning is likely to go on. Heng Samrin's visit to Moscow earlier this month the Viet leaders have seen for themselves what backwashmen unpunished politicians are by comparison with their Vietnamese supporters. Stimulated by this unforeseen

break the Khmer Rouge have been putting a new face on things. Their leadership was reshaped last December, with the murderous Pol Pot left in the shadows as a guerrilla leader only. Mr Khieu Samphan has stepped forward as the fluent spokesman of the new line, entertaining foreign correspondents in style at a secret base in Kampuchea. Since then he has been to Peking and Pyongyang while his counterparts from Phnom Penh were guests in Moscow. Can this new face be trusted? It is hard to believe that this rapacious leopard will have changed its spots in practice, however much Khieu Samphan's assurances represent his own wishes. It seems likely that Chinese pressure now can be, and has been, applied to the Khmer Rouge as threatened guerrillas, pressure which Peking felt unable to apply while their Kampuchean friends still had the status of an independent government in Phnom Penh.

With the Vietnamese determined that only a government subservient to their wishes can rule in Phnom Penh and with the Chinese equally determined that the Khmer Rouge guerrillas will continue to harass their opponents, and perhaps even gain support as stout upholders of Khmer nationalism against the hated Vietnamese, what hope is there for peace, order and progress in suffering Kampuchea? Not much, it must be admitted; not if any initiative likely to succeed. When leaders of the one-time CIA-supported and communist Khmer Rouge fight self-interested battles in the unhappy refugee camps, how can a body representing Kampuchean nationalism be gathered together? Prince Sihanouk, as ever, is ready to stand forth. He certainly has no competitor as a figurehead but that is all he is: he has neither a political base nor sufficient mass backing to enable him to intervene. Nor

can international action at the United Nations or through any other channels hope to achieve anything while China is directly involved on one side and Vietnam is backed by the Russians on the other.

Is there, then, no political way to restore the moderate, non-aligned independence that the country knew under Prince Sihanouk's rule in the fifties and sixties, before the Vietnam war brought its horrifying disasters? Sadly the truth must be faced that in a country so lacking in political literacy it is difficult to define combinations that might form a new centre of political power. There is scarcely even a body politic any more, when so many members of the small educated class have been done away with. In any case, the chances of salvation coming from within a country so dominated by outside rivalry must be small. Relations between China, Russia and Vietnam continue to define the problem.

That leaves the Asian countries as best placed to propose a way out for Kampuchea. Since the fall of Phnom Penh and Saigon five years ago these countries have been the most threatened by Vietnamese power, arrogance and intransigence. In the process the group has matured much more quickly than ever seemed likely ten years ago, when Asian was little more than an idea taking shape. The front-line state most deserving of sympathetic support has been Thailand where General Kriangsak's replacement this month by General Prem should not alter the steady handling of a critical border and an exhausted refugee problem. An approach made by ASEAN has already met with some response from Hanoi. A regional rather than any international agreement seems now to offer the best hope for a recovery of Kampuchea's independence. Meanwhile the western world should not forget the sufferings of the population.

## OO MUCH LEAD ABOUT

Professor Lawther's report on air pollution, published yesterday, is a work of scrupulous and careful analysis. It assesses risks, in so far as they can be assessed, but it makes little attempt to go further and weigh costs and advantages of minimising them. That judgment, which will be partly an economic one and partly a political one in response to the tent of public concern, must be made by the Government. Lead pollution in car exhausts is a controversial issue. The past year or two there have been demonstrations, petitions, and several court cases; pending against oil companies on behalf of children allegedly harmed by lead emissions from traffic. In its defence, the motor lobby has stressed expense, in foreign exchange scarce resources of erecting guardrails against a danger that remains unproven. A joint study of the industry and the Ministry of Transport last year put the extra cost of lead-free petrol at 10m a year, and the extra energy consumption at five per cent. Special filters on car exhausts would produce similar effects for about £75m a year. Several other countries have nevertheless considered it worthwhile to adopt or move towards

much tighter restrictions than anything contemplated here. The Lawther report will not satisfy either side. It treats with reserve the studies that have seemed to indicate a capital link between lead from petrol and impaired health or ability among children. But its reservations are of a kind that are not broad complacency. It is not in dispute that lead is a poison. It can kill, and in smaller doses it can cause lasting damage to the central nervous system. Children are especially vulnerable. The question is whether prolonged exposure to still smaller doses (within the limits set by WHO and EEC standards that Britain accepts) can do harm that is real, though impossible to measure by existing techniques—and whether car exhausts contribute significantly to such exposure.

When the alleged effects include impairment of intelligence, difficulty in concentrating, a tendency to headaches and that vague manifestation, hyperactivity, clear proof becomes extremely hard. People living in inner cities tend to have unusually high concentrations of lead in their blood, and children in such areas very often do poorly in intelligence tests, for a variety of reasons. But no evidence establishes a casual connexion to the satisfaction of the Lawther com-

mittee—let alone a connexion with car exhausts, which are seldom the most important source of lead. However, it does appear that individuals vary considerably in their rate of lead absorption, and that small patches of high contamination can exist unnoticed. It is difficult even to measure lead in blood at the levels discussed.

The case against lead in petrol cannot be dismissed because the evidence against it is, by its nature, difficult to clinch. Car emissions, unlike some other sources, are virtually eliminated at a price that is not too high to pay. Present Government policy is to keep the overall level of traffic emissions low, which has meant reducing lead levels by about half in ten years, as consumption has risen. The Lawther report rightly gives first priority to searching out and eliminating lead in water pipes and old paintwork where especially high risk of poisoning exists. With less emphasis it calls for a reduction in emissions from traffic and industrial sources. The probability of harm from traffic is too great to justify maintenance of the "steady state" policy: the Government should announce a clear timetable for bringing pollution by traffic down to levels comparable to those in West Germany, with a deadline that should not be too remote.

between Iraq and Iran and not to the United States and Britain. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, ANTHONY KERSHAW, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Select Committee, House of Commons, March 28.

### Hostels and the homeless

From Lord Longford and Sir R. V. Jones. It is quite correct for the Bishop of Sturges and the Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster to insist (March 24) that the anger felt after the recent fires in hostels for the homeless, be focused in the right direction. New Horizon Youth Centre has for the past 11 years been giving advice and support to homeless and roofless young people in the West End of London. It is clear that the substandard accommodation available to them is not only squalid but also puts at risk both health and safety. The only alternatives that many people have to overcrowded hostels, however, is the street.

In recent years we have seen an increasing number of young people without permanent accommodation and in the early months of this year the increase has been alarming, being over 100 per cent on the same period last year. The referrals we make cannot be based primarily on professional judgment but on the simple expediency of where beds are available and this will be in common lodging houses, night shelters and reception centres. Since the situation at present is far from satisfactory, then it is with real alarm that we view the future. Our own financial position is very insecure. Inflation has reduced greatly the value of our income. It is increasingly difficult to secure trust funding as many donors are under threat of new statutory restrictions. At the same time there is a serious question mark over our own major source of government funding.

We have no guarantees beyond March 1981. We have already reduced our staff and our resources are stretched to their absolute limit. As our own position becomes

difficult then so does that of other charities with whom we work. The reduction of services to those with alcohol and drug problems and the memory of the lack of good, cheap, independent accommodation for single people; the effect of unemployment on the value of social security payments begins to create a very gloomy picture of a real rise in the numbers of destitute and alienated people. Many of these, like those who are young, are still enthusiastic, energetic and imaginative in their approach but desperately handicapped by the lack of resources.

The tragedy of the fire at the Missionaries of Charity House will be compounded again and again in the years to come through fire, disease, alcoholism, drug abuse, crime, mental illness and the breakdown of relationships. There must be some major reversal in public expenditure and housing policies if our city streets are not themselves to become overcrowded by those looking for a bed. The victims of the tragedy will remain those least able to protect themselves.

Yours sincerely, FRANK LONGFORD, Chairman, N. H. V. JONES, Coordinator, New Horizon Youth Centre Ltd, 1 Macklin Street, WC2.

### Imprisonment of witnesses

From Mrs Margaret Wiggs. Sir, For justice to be done "without fear or favour" (the words of the magisterial oath) it is essential that witnesses come freely to court to give evidence. In the above case, case reported on March 20, two witnesses who had been charged with and convicted of no offence were taken from the court to prison for refusing to be bound over. The binding over of persons other than defendants may sometimes be appropriate, but the imprisonment of witnesses has serious implications for beyond this case.

Yours faithfully, MARGARET WIGGS, Fairfield House, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.

## Seeing the Budget in perspective

From Mrs Patricia Utechin. Sir, In *The Times* today (March 27) you report on the Budget. Reactions to it, and (p. 9) the document *World Conservation Strategy*. This last report ends with the words: "In terms of the world's resources, one Somali already consumes as much as 40 Somalis." If that is the figure for one rich Swiss, perhaps we may guess that one poor British consumes only as much as 25 Somalis; or, to put it more strikingly, about everything you consume (food, housing, heat, light and other forms of energy, education and medical resources, protection in unemployment and old age, etc.) and divide it by 25—that is what one Somali consumes.

Of course poverty and riches are always and everywhere relative and judged by the norm of one's own society. But if we cannot restrain our greed, can we not at least, for the sake of moral decency, restrain our language a little? The Budget proposals have been described as "mean" (Mr Callaghan), "harsh" (Mr Murray), "savage" (Mr Albert Spence) and "brutal" (Child Poverty Action Group). These adjectives should more properly be applied to the lives of a Somali, a Kampuchean, the majority of Indians, Africans and South Americans.

It is especially distressing that those of us who claim to be social democrats or socialists appear to be more intent on making the rich richer (in western industrialised countries) and the poor poorer (in the rest of the world) than on urging the Chancellor and the people of this country to pay some attention to the Brandt Commission's report.

Yours faithfully, PATRICIA UTECHIN, 120 Oxford Road, Littlemore, Oxford.

From Mr O. P. Stutchbury. Sir, Can you (or someone) bring home to HM Treasury the absurdity of a system which pays bureaucrats (the Inland Revenue) to take away benefits which other bureaucrats within the same system (the Department for Social Services) distribute? Before the Chancellor speaks ill of industrial "elephantism" he should take steps to remove the beam from his own eye. Yours faithfully, OLIVER STUTCHBURY, Darrington and Co Ltd, Bridge Chambers, Barnsley, North Devon.

From Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead (Labour). Sir, The end of economic growth for the foreseeable future was bound to have major repercussions on British politics. The twin issues of inflation and the postwar British policies rested were a steady slow increase in national income with some of the additional wealth being used to finance social reform. The present Tory Government has broken the postwar consensus by redistributing existing income and wealth in favour of the rich. In the Budget last year, the richest 7 per cent of taxpayers picked up 34 per cent of all tax cuts. In contrast the poorest 10 per cent of taxpayers—many of whom earn their poverty cornered a mere 2 per cent of the reduction in their tax. In the Budget, the richest 2 per cent of taxpayers have again been treated with absurd generosity; they gain

over 13 per cent of the net tax reduction announced on Wednesday.

At a time of considerable tax cuts for the rich, and with the Government planning for increasing unemployment, the dele has been cut in most of the world's resources, one Somali already consumes as much as 40 Somalis. If that is the figure for one rich Swiss, perhaps we may guess that one poor British consumes only as much as 25 Somalis; or, to put it more strikingly, about everything you consume (food, housing, heat, light and other forms of energy, education and medical resources, protection in unemployment and old age, etc.) and divide it by 25—that is what one Somali consumes.

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Yours faithfully, FRANK FIELD, House of Commons.

From Professor F. A. Hayek, FBA. Sir, May I express my concern to find today (March 27) even a leading article in *The Times* speaking of deflation (or "deflationary policies") when inflation is a means of deflating a bladder or balloon by blowing a little less strongly into it. Conceptual clarity is important in this connection, just because it is true that the effects of reducing the rate of inflation are very similar to those of deflation. This will be understood only if it is clearly stated and it is most important that it is generally recognised that in the state into which we have got, an interval of fairly severe deflation is inevitable. Yet once this is seen, nobody can believe that it is politically possible to drag out the process over five years. So far as the crucial supply of money is concerned, there can be no doubt that its excessive increase can be terminated in the course of weeks or months. And if this is the only politically possible way of stopping inflation, government will have to put its financial house in order over some short period, however painful the process may be.

Yours faithfully, F. A. HAYEK, Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.

Child benefit policy. From Sir John Walpole. Sir, More than 12 years ago, you were so kind as to give me my first opportunity, as a recently retired official, to set out in your columns the economic and financial, as well as the administrative, advantages to be expected from the replacement of virtually all our state payments and tax allowances for children by an equal, universal, tax free payment to the parents for each. At that time and also later in 1972, when the then Conservative Government was in power, the replacement of a select committee of the House of Commons for what I had proposed, the net cost would have been quite modest, even though, at £2.10 it would have had to be set at nearly a third of the then retirement pension rate. Sadly, by the time that a government had got round to tackling this reform, the relative position of children and parents in our tax and social payments structure had so deteriorated that child benefit was set at a level which was quite inadequate to achieve its objectives—at £4 it is scarcely more than a sixth of the current retirement pension rate.

A distinguished lay lord, now dead, chairing a royal commission to which I had given evidence, took me aside to tell me how much he appreciated and supported the case for the reform; but he added sadly, "the children cannot expect justice under our political system until they have the vote".

A nation's concerns for its future would, I then thought, be shown in its care for its children. In our economic circumstances deteriorated. But I now know that I was wrong and that this judicial assessment was right. Examination of the 1980 Budget proposals leads me to the conclusion that they will make worse the present lack of balance between the provision for children and for retirement pensioners. The total increase for a child is to be 75p a week less the effect of the increases of meal charges in our schools. The retirement pensioner, on the other hand, is to get £3.85 extra plus nearly a pound, or even more in some bands, from the tax changes for elderly persons.

A political cynic can understand this increasing imbalance; but what is one to make of the proposal to abolish the modest amount of earning relation in our unemployment

and sickness benefits? The Act which provided these supplements was my last major responsibility as an official. It was an all-party measure and, as some of your correspondents have pointed out, the pressure for it came from economists and others concerned to improve the security of our labour in a rapidly changing world. But I saw it also as a first step towards bringing the shape of our insurance benefits structure into a closer correspondence not only with those of our partners in Europe but in the United States. What then prevented our going further along this road was, first, the refusal of the Inland Revenue to restore the pre-1949 taxable status of short-term National Insurance benefits; and, secondly, the absence from our scene of an adequate system of child benefits, to enable us to dispense with so long disfigured our so-called "national insurance" flat-rate structure. The Chancellor now proposes to get rid of the first difficulty and, if he is serious about creating incentives in our economy, he could have moved towards, instead of away from, the second. I ask what he is playing at in proposing to abolish, instead of make more effective, the earnings-related element in our present benefits?

Yours truly, JOHN WALPOLE, 46 Rotherwick Road, NW11.

### Prescription charges

From Dr Hedley Berry. Sir, While realising the cost of drugs and the Chancellor's aims, I would like to protest on behalf of a group of my patients. These are those who have rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis. This represents a stable proportion of the community, many of whom are quite young.

At the moment, the Department of Health and Social Security does not offer them exemption. Would it not be reasonable for these patients, many who take and need four and five different drugs a day, to qualify for exemption? I resort to writing to you as the Department of Health and Social Security are evasive in the way they have handled this problem.

Yours sincerely, HEDLEY BERRY, Consultant Rheumatologist, King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, SE5.

## Archbishop's enthronement sermon

From the Reverend Joseph McCulloch.

Sir, In your report of the new Archbishop of Canterbury's enthronement address (March 26) you include the following passage: "He longed as Archbishop to speak with men and women outside the Christian Church. He would like to say to them: 'You can teach us so much if together we could look for the secret of the mazelike muddle in which the world finds itself.'"

But why is this expressed in the form of a pious wish? What is to stop the new Archbishop from doing tomorrow what he says he wants to do? It has already been done. Perhaps his activities over the last 20 years have prevented his being aware of it. But if he cares to consult his predecessor, or the Bishop of London, or the Dean of Westminster, or sundry other exalted ecclesiastics, or for that matter thousands of workers in the City of London and elsewhere, they will inform him that for 15 years a regular dialogue was effectively sustained at the church of St Mary-le-Bow between churchmen and men and women outside the Christian Church. Why then the Archbishop's pious wish? What was wrong in the City during those years was that nothing was more desired of the Church than the continuance of this open relationship between professing believers and non-believers.

If the Archbishop means what he readily joins with him in looking for the secret of "the mazelike muddle in which the world finds itself". If these conversations were made public, nothing could be of more value to the Archbishop's avowed cause.

Yours sincerely, JOSEPH MCCULLOCH, 20a Eton Court, Eton Avenue, NW3. March 26.

From Mr Richard Rhodes James. Sir, Robert Runcie in his enthronement sermon asked the Church to beware of the temptation "to recruit new members with a sordid self-confidence which suggests we have nothing to learn".

Alas! Today the Church has so little self-confidence that it suggests that it is going to teach. Until it recovers the joyous and triumphant certainty with which it was born and realises again that it is truth that sets us free and not just a willingness to be nice to everyone, it will fail to achieve what you so justly say is its task, the conversion of men and women.

If Christians are afraid to be different, then the salt has indeed lost its savour. Yours faithfully, RICHARD RHODES JAMES, Haileybury, Hertford, March 26.

From Mr Adrian Fisher. Sir, Archbishop Runcie, in his enthronement sermon on Tuesday, described his dream of a maze. This dream provided an insight into the state of the Christian Church today.

This use of the maze as a symbol of the Christian Path of Life has a long tradition. The builders of Chartres carefully sited a pavement maze in their cathedral in 1235, calling it "Chemins de Jerusalem", a

path of pilgrimage. The same design was cut in turf by monks on hillsides in Hampshire and Lincolnshire, naming the centre as "Salvation". The hedge maze at Hampton Court is now believed to be considerably older than 1690, and may date back to Cardinal Wolsey's time. It has the pattern of a Path of Life, with a goal to be reached, and the dead ends being the mistakes of life. As a puzzle (its present twentieth-century use), it is not a difficult maze—but then, it was not originally intended as a puzzle.

Most recently, in 1930, Canon Cheales, of Wyck Rissington, Gloucestershire, had a vivid dream in which he was instructed to build a maze in his rectory garden. The path encounters the 15 Mysteries of the Gospels, leading through the birth, life and death of Christ, to his final Resurrection and Salvation. The Canon uses the maze in his ministry, and visitors have obtained insights into their lives walking the maze, and talking afterwards with the Canon.

As in Archbishop Runcie's dream, the goal at Wyck Rissington is not reached by pressing towards the centre, but by returning almost to the edge, and taking the proper path.

Yours faithfully, ADRIAN FISHER, Maze Consultant, Minotaur Designs, 167 New House Park, St Albans, Hertfordshire, March 26.

From Mrs Diann Collins. Sir, In your leading article (March 26) you say that the Church must preach the Gospel "in ways that will seem relevant in the world today". You suggest that the ordination of women would be a "diversion" from this task.

Nothing could be further from the truth. It is precisely because the Church continues—even while agreeing that there is no theological justification for so doing—to discriminate against women solely on grounds of gender, that it is becoming less and less able to preach a Gospel true to itself and truly relevant to the modern world.

There are women with marvellous gifts, spiritual, pastoral and intellectual; they serve the Church, but believe they are called to the deeper service of ordination. They are profoundly frustrated: some of them will leave the Church altogether; others will join the "brain-drain" overseas.

There are many, many fringe Christians, men and women, who "have faith and would believe"; they are both mystified and repelled by the Church's attitude to women.

No Church can afford such waste. Nor can the Church of England continue to turn its back upon its fellow Anglican Churches by "having faith and would believe"; they are both mystified and repelled by the Church's attitude to women.

We who work in the Movement for the Ordination of Women do not work just for women. We work for the whole Church. We do not want it to be in Archbishop Runcie's words "a ghetto Church"; but without the full and responsible participation of women that alas is what it is, and what it will remain.

Yours truly, DIANN COLLINS, 2 Amen Court, EC4, March 26.

## Within the Labour Party

From Dr Stephen Haseler. Sir, The publication last week of Lord Underhill's report into Trotskyite ("Militant") infiltration into the Labour Party was a major political event. It would have led, our going further along this road was, first, the refusal of the Inland Revenue to restore the pre-1949 taxable status of short-term National Insurance benefits; and, secondly, the absence from our scene of an adequate system of child benefits, to enable us to dispense with so long disfigured our so-called "national insurance" flat-rate structure.

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For our part, in the Social Democratic Alliance, we will continue our appeal against expulsion right through to the Annual Conference where, according to established precedent, we will expect to be able to present our case in public to the full conference. We cannot accept that moderates who denounce the kind of activity outlined by Lord Underhill's report should be expelled by a party claiming democratic credentials.

Sincerely yours, STEPHEN HASELER, Chairman, Social Democratic Alliance, PO Box 100, London, NE, March 23.

From Mr David Andrews. Sir, I have much sympathy with Mr Bernard Levin's difficulties at coming in terms with the International Date Line and the way in which the bath water circles down the plug hole in different parts of the world (March 27).

I am concerned that Mr Levin should be aware of the fact, while he is there, that in Australia north and south are reversed—to the extent that, that south is the cold side and north is the sunny side. Unless he appreciates this, I fear that he may not find his way home but might fall off the bottom of the world when firmly of the impression that he is heading hard for the equator. This, of course, would be a tragedy for your readership.

Yours faithfully, DAVID ANDREWS, Flat 2, 16 Lansdowne Road, Wimbledon, SW20, March 27.

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des from St Paul's on the Dean of St Paul's and the rector to the Fabric.

In an article by Frances Gibb left appeared in *The Times* on March 10, reference was made to "intriguing carved ceiling festooned with fruit and shells in the about style" which has been verified in the *International Herald-Tribune* and is on offer at 1,000.

The article asserts that the ceiling measuring 17 ft by 13 ft is a sited beneath the cathedral fan when it was in its original position. The dimensions given, however, do not agree with the careful measurements made by F. C. Penrose before he moved the screen. The dimensions given do agree with those of a Victorian draught, lobbies which were replaced some five years ago by the present revolving doors of the conservation of heat and to comply with fire regulations.

The response to this article by "Chairman of the Georgian Group", Mr. Chance (March 15), would certainly be justified if the evidence were taken at its face value. It is indeed a pity that the evidence was not verified by him before such a severe criticism was made upon those in whose care are historic treasures at St Paul's.

Yours faithfully, AN WEBSTER, 20 Amen Court, EC4, March 27.

relations with Iraq from Mr Anthony Kershaw, MP for Oxford (Conservative).

In his article today, March 28, last Wednesday's meeting of the House of Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, your Diplomatic Correspondent wrote that Foreign Office Ministers had said that Britain's relations with Iraq are deteriorating.

This is not correct. Mr Douglas and the minister concerned, was referring, in answer to a question, out the current state of relations







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Bay, Botany Bay, and he  
w ride, Mark Cursham's Shan

Eary, Miss Prior-Palmer's hopes for a fifth Whistred Trophy victory next month.

Rushall has always been a valued rehearsal for Badminton and among those out to enhance their chances here are Captain Mark Phillips with the British Equestrian Federation's Rough and Tough and the Range Rover team's Lincoln; Richard Meade, with Kilmecan; Sue Benson with Monicle and Charlie Middleton with the Miss Prior-Palmer with her horses, on OCI's Village Gossip, who was in the World Championship team in Lexington, Kentucky, in the 1972 Jaws ride; a federation horse, Foxie Rubble; and the European champion, MMs Heagensen, has entered Noko, who followed up his

European championship was last Sunday by scoring at Shiselwell.

The field is wide open, and many horses have not been out yet as the season is barely two weeks old. It will be interesting to see Vincent Jones on Bleak HBB, the horse on which Richard Meade finished fourth in the last Olympic Games, and also such up-and-coming contenders as Andrew Boy of Australia and Davey, the winner at Bughlye last September, and Karlins Pinkington's Lare Look, who was very successful at the end of last season.

The Rushall course was never a sinecure, and in the prevailing waterlogged conditions, with the river brought into play in two places, it will provide a real test today.

Schwetzer scored Oxford's first goal, the first corner in the 24th minute, the second from a pass by Precious *just before half time*. Within 10 minutes of the second half London were back in the game with goals by Scott and Eason from open play.

But Shrimpton, from a short corner, Precious, from open play and *Ludwigson*, from a penalty stroke, put Oxford 5-2 ahead. Eason reduced the lead from a penalty stroke before Precious completed a brilliant performance

**Preschool to college**  
Blackpool Borough have appointed Chris Haskett, the former Great Britain Rugby League captain, as coach. Haskett, who has been given a free transfer by Salford, succeeds Graham Lees who was sacked by the Borough board nine days ago.

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**Nardella goes west**  
Don Nardella, Coventry City's 22-year-old Welsh international winger, will sign for the North American club, Detroit Express, on a free transfer next week. He will try to join them on Monday.

that the powers-that-be are worried about a ground swell and are beginning to defend their position. He understands the Middlesex and to call for an extraordinary general meeting of the Hockey Association. "But it is not up to me to go round and lobby. The players are competitors and naturally will fight. For perhaps the first time in their lives they are having to examine political issues. They are cornered politically but I hope we have not heard the last of this."

Mr. Watson believes the gap between the players and administrators is now wider than ever.

Time	199	Good	-12	Ruskin	170	Good	-
Time	98	Good	-	Yoda	170	Good	-

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## TV highlights

<b>BBC 1</b>		<b>Racing:</b> Salisbury races at 1.30
<b>Football:</b> Preview (12.45); Match of the Day (9.35)		2.0, 2.30, 3.0; Ayr races 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45
<b>Athletics:</b> from United States (1.10)		<b>Tennis:</b> Avon women's final (3.10)
<b>Racing:</b> Grand National at 3.20; 2.0 and 2.35 races from Liverpool		<b>Wrestling:</b> Walton-on-Thames promotion (4.0)
<b>Rugby League:</b> Cup semi-final, Hull v Widnes (3.50)		<b>BBC 2-tomorrow</b>
		<b>Rugby Union:</b> Harlequins v Leicester (5.10)
<b>ITV</b>		<b>ITV-tomorrow</b>
<b>Football:</b> Preview (12.35)		<b>Football:</b> Big Match (2.45)
<b>Rowing:</b> Women's Boat Race (1.0)		regional vary

$$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

Monaco, who followed up his

1953.



SPORT  
Racing

## Not even the rain should stop Zongalero

By Michael Phillips

When I was in Ireland last week I visited the Longfield stud in County Tipperary, principally to see the two resident stallions Home Guard and Blazing: but while there, I took the opportunity to ask the manager, the former champion jump jockey Tommy Stack, what he would like to be riding in this year's Grand National. He replied, without hesitation, Zongalero.

Having won a National on Red Rum and also finishing second on the same horse, Stack is in a better position than most to judge, and I found his choice encouraging because I have thought for a long time that Zongalero is capable of going one better than he did a year ago. Indeed, that has happened recently making me want to change my mind at this late stage—not even all the rain that has fallen in the area in the last 72 hours or so has been able to stop his stable companions from being of colour of late.

I saw Zongalero out at exercise earlier this week and he looked a picture of health and fitness. A very well-bred horse and a much stronger horse than he was a year ago was his trainer Nick Henderson's belief. Henderson, who has known Zongalero since he was a foal, knows because he has ridden him in almost all of his work during a season when his sole objective has been today's big race.

Later that morning Henderson showed me the results of Zongalero's latest blood test taken the previous day. Compared with all his other tests, Henderson said, during the winter he looked just as perfect as he could be. Incidentally while he has been in isolation, Zongalero has been stabled in a box that was once occupied by that legendary steeplechaser, Golden Miller, who also won the Grand National. Today will tell whether that box still retains its magic.

As for the danger at Liverpool, Henderson said he was not worried. Zongalero ought to be able to handle it as well as most, and probably better than the majority. After all he did manage to win the Mandarín Stakes on very soft ground at Newbury towards the end of December.

The speed which Zongalero has shown in much shorter races and the stamina which was so evident on this day a year ago, when only Rubric beat him, make him an ideal National horse. That stamina is necessary to last four and a half miles, goes without saying: speed is vital too because it is the horse to take a good position early on, then hold it and hopefully clear of interference.

Last year Zongalero was up front most of the way, jumping like a stag: if he runs as well again this afternoon, will take some catching, more especially on soft ground, and he is my selection.

I know that Bob Davies, who rode him last year, would have loved to have been on his back again; but this time Zongalero will be ridden by Henderson's young stable jockey, Steve Smith, and he could easily be in the money.

loved to have been on his back again; but this time Zongalero will be ridden by Henderson's young stable jockey, Steve Smith, and he could easily be in the money.

When the winter was at New castle in January, he proved conclusively that he stays really well and that he copes with the sort of testing conditions underfoot that he will encounter this afternoon. There is still a feeling, however, that we may well see something akin to an exact replay of last year's finish when Rubric beat Zongalero on soft ground.

Rubric, the favourite, has 11lb more to carry than when he was successful a year ago. He has never ridden in 67 consecutive jumps, has proven quadruple: what more could you want. In the circumstances he seems bound to make his presence felt again, always assuming that he gets his share of the luck that is so necessary in this of all races.

Anyone who watched John Francome ride Uncle Bing in the Topham Trophy on Thursday will know that last year's third, Rough and Tumble, will get the best possible assistance from the saddle; but Francome is the first to admit that whereas the two who beat last year's winner will mind the ground today, Rough and Tumble would have been far better suited if it had remained dry. The soft ground may well have helped off the chances of Wagner, Man Alive and Salkeld as well.

Prince Rock, though, is a mud-

lark and he was runner-up to Tied Cottage in last year's Irish Grand National. However, it is not whether he is big enough to cope with these daunting fences: when he ran in the race three years ago, his jockey came over the fence first when he half refused and fell as the ewing.

Fred Rimell is the trainer with the best record in this of all races. He has won it already with E. S. S. Nicholas Silver, Gay Trip and Rag Trade, and in an attempt to win it this year he will be saddling a fifth time he will be saddling four runners this afternoon—Royal Frolic, Another Dolly, The Philharmonic and Godfrey Securus.

Before the National, Monksfield ought to end his racing career on a triumphant note by winning the Sun Temple Hurdle again. The going will be softer than he cares for, but that is not the case for his principal rival, Pollardstown as well. King Wessel, my selection for the Sun Temple Hurdle, is one who will definitely not mind the mud.

More likely to last this marathon is Jer, one of comparatively few to have won over as far as four miles. He is big enough to cope with these daunting fences: when he ran in the race three years ago, his jockey came over the fence first when he half refused and fell as the ewing.

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Before the National, Monksfield ought to end his racing career on a triumphant note by winning the Sun Temple Hurdle again. The going will be softer than he cares for, but that is not the case for his principal rival, Pollardstown as well. King Wessel, my selection for the Sun Temple Hurdle, is one who will definitely not mind the mud.

## Runners and riders for today's Grand National

302	111498	MAN ALIVE (J. Ennis), G. Richards, 9-11-4	R. Barry
303	9999-181	ROYAL FROLIC (Sir J. Hamner), F. Rimell, 11-11-4	J. Burke
304	9-11301	PRINCE ROCK (C. M. Buckley, P. Bailey, 12-11-0	T. Carmody
305	9-24136	ZONGALERO (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 12-11-0	G. Smith
306	9-23043	BEN NEVIS (R. Stewart), J. Forster, 12-10-12	Mr. C. Farwell
307	9-24220	CASAMAYOR (R. Guest), P. Bailey, 10-10-12	J. King
308	9-24222	ROULETTE (J. Hamner), F. Winter, 10-10-12	J. Francome
309	9-24211	RUBRIC (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-13	M. Barnes
310	9-24212	ANOTHER DOLLY (C. M. Buckley, P. Bailey, 10-10-12	J. D. O'Neill
311	9-24213	ROYAL STUART (G. Smith, 10-10-12	P. Black
312	9-24214	GOODYEAR (G. Smith, 10-10-12	P. Black
313	9-24215	FLASHY BOY (Mrs A. Bailey), D. Smith, 12-10-4	G. Grant
314	9-24216	THE VINTNER (Westwood Garages Ltd), M. Naughton, 9-10-4	P. Black
315	9-24217	COOLIDGE (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
316	9-24218	CHOCOLATE (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
317	9-24219	GREENWOOD (M. Russell), A. O'Connell, 12-10-8	A. O'Connell
318	9-24220	JIMMY MUFF (D. Henderson), J. Wardle, 9-10-8	A. Brown
319	9-24221	DRUMMOAN (Mrs G. St John Nolan), Mrs G. St John Nolan, 12-10-4	T. McGovern
320	9-24222	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
321	9-24223	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
322	9-24224	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
323	9-24225	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
324	9-24226	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
325	9-24227	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
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343	9-24245	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
344	9-24246	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
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349	9-24251	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
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351	9-24253	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
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397	9-24299	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
398	9-24300	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
399	9-24301	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
400	9-24302	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
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410	9-24312	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
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465	9-24367	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
466	9-24368	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
467	9-24369	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
468	9-24370	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
469	9-24371	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
470	9-24372	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
471	9-24373	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
472	9-24374	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
473	9-24375	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black
474	9-24376	LEWIS (D. Henderson), G. Smith, 11-10-8	P. Black



# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Personal  
Investment and  
Finance  
pages 18 and 19

**Stock markets**  
Ft Ind 421.5 down 1.6  
FT Gilts 64.02 down 0.28

**Sterling**  
\$2.1745 down 10 points  
Index 72.6 up 0.1

**Dollar**  
Index 90.3

**Gold**  
\$485 up \$12

**Money**  
3-month sterling 18 1/4-18 1/2  
3-month Euro \$ 19 1/4-19 1/2  
6-month Euro \$ 19 1/4-19 1/2

### IN BRIEF

**P confirms premium on oil from Kuwait**  
British Petroleum confirmed it will pay a premium on the 150,000 barrels a day of oil it is being allowed to export from Kuwait. The premium is said to be \$5.50 a barrel on the official Kuwait price of \$7.50.

**Elworks closing**  
The Engineering is closing steelworks at Ebbw Vale, Wales, with the loss of 66 jobs. The move is not a result of the steel strike, but is given as the cause.

**IMF move**  
The International Monetary Fund has agreed to remain a member of the International Monetary Fund but cancel negotiations with the IMF for balance of payments support. The move is likely to announce an alternative economic strategy this weekend.

**Energy-saving lamp**  
Philips Gloeilampfabriek is marketing a miniature fluorescent lamp as an energy-saving device. The 10 watt light is said to be a quarter of the power of an ordinary 75 watt lamp.

**Engines deal**  
A \$3m export order from Arabia for 4,000 diesel engines has been won by R.A. of Catterick, Gloucestershire. The engines should be delivered in nine months.

**Land layoffs**  
Land and Wolff, the Belbriard and the city's employer, announced that 200 jobs will be lost in the next few weeks. Redundancy notices were due out today to the first 250.

**Reading study**  
A Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors has commissioned a report by independent economists to compare British investment in this with that of other countries. It will be presented to Government and local authorities in May.

**Surplus**  
A Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) forecasts a surplus of around \$120,000m in 1980, up from \$54,500m in 1979.

**Liquor features**  
A court in Milan has declared the bankruptcy of five companies of the troubled Liqueurs group. The companies are Liqueurs, Liqueurs, Liqueurs, Liqueurs, and Liqueurs.

**Price changes**  
Ladbrokes 7p to 12p  
Ladbrokes 4p to 5p  
Ladbrokes 3p to 4p  
Ladbrokes 2p to 3p

**THE POUND**  
Bank of England 2.07  
Bank of England 2.08  
Bank of England 2.09  
Bank of England 2.10

**Guide for VAT men**  
Insight into one of the ways Customs and Excise officers measure retail profits when in pursuit of value added tax came yesterday when a copy of the guidance to Customs inspectors on average retail markups became public.

**Secrets of the retail margins are revealed**  
An addendum to the markup list says it can only be used as a broad guide to the credibility of traders' accounts. It gives a warning to inspectors not to give the game away about the advisory list either to traders or indeed a VAT tribunal.

**How Hunt brothers were caught in the great bullion collapse**  
Washington, March 28—United States Economics Correspondent  
It was called the silver hunt on the trading floors of the American commodity trading exchanges as the vastly wealthy Texan brothers, Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt and Mr William Herbert Hunt, bought tons of silver.

**Further rise in US prime lending rates as credit demand continues**  
From Frank Vogel  
US Economics Correspondent  
Washington, March 28  
Major American commercial banks raised their prime lending rates yet again to record levels today as bankers and economists warned that rates may well go still higher.

**£3,000m gas pipeline plan ready**  
By David Hewson  
Plans for a £3,000m 400-mile gas pipeline serving the North Sea are expected to be submitted to the Department of Energy early next month. The scheme has been drawn up jointly by the British Gas Corporation and Mobil at the department's request.

**Ladbroke sells five casinos for £4.4m**  
By Richard Allen  
Ladbroke, the troubled betting and hotels group, is to sell five of its 11 provincial casinos in a £4.4m deal which could herald a complete withdrawal from the casino industry.

**Doubt cast on Imps bid for US group**  
There was continued speculation yesterday that Imperial Group's \$630m (£285m) bid for Howard Johnson, the American restaurant and hotel group, had run into last-minute difficulties.

## Further rise in US prime lending rates as credit demand continues

From Frank Vogel  
US Economics Correspondent  
Washington, March 28  
Major American commercial banks raised their prime lending rates yet again to record levels today as bankers and economists warned that rates may well go still higher.

As the day developed, more and more banks moved to the 19 1/4 and 19 1/2 per cent rates for their most creditworthy large customers. The increases are being attributed to the continuing high demand for credit from all sectors and to the tighter credit policies imposed by the Federal Reserve Board two weeks ago.

In addition, there is speculation that the Fed may have this week made tentative moves towards a still tighter credit squeeze. This was indicated by some wild fluctuations in the rate for Federal funds above the 20 per cent level.

These are funds which banks borrow overnight from each other and which the Fed buys and sells to influence money stock developments. Most banks strive to keep their prime well above the Fed funds rate.

The open market committee of the Fed meets privately in Washington on Wednesday to map the credit strategy for the next four weeks. There are few in the markets that, as the money supply appears to be rising rapidly and as growth of bank reserves continues to be forecast, the top policy formulation will be to raise its target interest rate levels for Fed funds in the middle of next week.

With this in mind, some bankers and brokers on Wall Street were talking today of the prime rate moving above 20 per cent in the next four weeks. Economists experts at the University of California have just come out with a forecast that the prime might go as high as 22 per cent.

Bankers do not believe a possible Fed move to still tighter policies will be influenced simply by the latest money stock figures. They suggest that the Fed might fear a reaction in the currency markets to the recent sharp rise in the dollar as a result of yesterday's record balance of trade deficit for the last two months of more than \$10,000m.

There are also indications that the Fed is worried that its efforts to restrain consumer credit are not working well. There is talk by some Fed officials of additional refinements to the recently announced margin requirements on additions to outstanding credit card debt.

In London yesterday, trading remained nervous in the Stock Exchange, as dealers pondered the Chancellor's latest proposals while continuing to keep a close eye on the latest events on Wall Street. Equities and Gilts continued to drift lower, although no real selling pressure was evident. The FT index closed 1.6 off at 421.5.

Dollar strong: The dollar gained ground in most European centres as rumours of an increase in European primes spread. A major point was well over DM185 but it slipped back in later trading to close at DM192.85 in Frankfurt.

The pound closed at \$2.1745, down 10 points against the dollar but the Bank of England's effective exchange rate index rose by 0.1 per cent to 72.6. This was below the top level for the day, however, which was 72.8 per cent of the pound's 1971 worth.

Dealing was mostly light and there was only limited intervention from central banks but the latest gains by the United States currency against the end of another week in which it has made strong advances.

## Mr Carter spurs on energy programme

Washington, March 28—President Carter, cheered by final passage of his "windfall" oil profits tax, has urged Congress to quickly enact other key elements of his energy conservation programme.

The Senate passed the tax proposals yesterday sending the bill to the White House for Mr Carter's signature.

"This is good news for our country and also good news for the world," Mr Carter said after the vote of 66-31.

He said Senate leaders had promised to conclude work on other key energy bills, creation of a special board to approve energy projects and federal aid for synthetic fuel production. Both bills have been held up in Congress for several months.

Mr Carter frequently called the oil tax bill the centre piece of his programme to reduce US dependence on foreign oil imports. Revenues from the tax, the largest ever passed by Congress, will be used to develop alternative sources of energy and mass transit and to help lower-income families pay their energy bills.

The tax will be taken from an estimated one trillion dollars in so-called "windfall" profits of United States oil companies as expected to make over the next 10 years, as federal price controls on domestic oil are phased out and the price rises to world levels.

Many members of Congress from oil-producing states opposed the bill, saying it would discourage domestic oil production. Fuel prices slowdown: Inventories of petroleum are beginning to show a shortage in the rate fuel prices rise. Although there is not enough evidence yet to suggest a possible break, or even a leveling, in overall fuel prices in the months ahead, oil observers are beginning to predict that future increases will be smaller and less frequent.

## How Hunt brothers were caught in the great bullion collapse

### Wall Street's silver panic

From Frank Vogel  
United States Economics Correspondent  
Washington, March 28

It was called the silver hunt on the trading floors of the American commodity trading exchanges as the vastly wealthy Texan brothers, Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt and Mr William Herbert Hunt, bought tons of silver.

Yesterday the price of silver collapsed, the Hunt brothers caught owing tens of millions of dollars. Wall Street was hurled into a panic and one of the largest American brokerage companies looked as if it was in trouble.

Today Government authorities sought to cool the charged atmosphere on financial markets and it appeared that the crisis might not, in fact, be quite as dramatic as had first seemed likely. There is a chance that people in the markets have once again underestimated the full scale of the Hunt brothers' fortunes.

The Hunt brothers are the heirs of Mr E. W. Hunt, one of the world's richest men back in 1974, having made his billions, not just millions, in the Texas oil game.

Throughout last year the Hunt brothers were continual speculators in the New York and Chicago commodity markets and it is believed that a few of their overseas friends were also striving to corner the market—obtain so much silver that they could dictate the global price, a feat last done in 1917 by the "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street," according to brokers here.

The silver price, largely because of buying by the Hunts and their friends, soared last year from an opening of \$5.97 an ounce up to \$18 by October, then on to \$37 at the start of this year and up to a record of \$50.35 in January. The speculation became so fierce that the commodity markets became worried that there could be more buying of silver than was actually available—trading limits were imposed in January that calmed some of the speculation and the price dropped.

By Tuesday the silver price was down to \$16.25 and then, to the surprise and alarm of market operators, Mr Nelson Hunt appeared in Paris to make an announcement. He said he planned to issue bonds, backed by \$3,000m worth of silver bullion owned by himself, his brother, Mr Najib Nahas, an Arab now resident in Brazil, Prince Faisal Bin Abdullah Al-Saud, Mahmoud Fustok and Shaikh Mohamed Al-Amoudi, all of Saudi Arabia. In the market the view was that the Hunts needed some cash, and hence the bond selling plan.

The Hunts are reported by traders to have been buying 5,000 to 10,000 silver contracts in the markets, about 25 to 50 million ounces.

The price has fallen like a stone and the Hunts have had to put up more and more cash to cover their outstanding purchases. By Tuesday they needed to provide their brokers, Bache, Halsey, Stuart, Shields, Inc. the fifth largest American brokerage company, with about \$100m to cover losses on 20,000 silver contracts. The Hunts' bond issue, which they had intended to sell immediately, Bache then felt forced to sell some silver to cover the liabilities of the Hunts; word spread and the panic was on.

Two separate kinds of fear spread through Wall Street. The first was that many brokerage houses might have clients with outstanding silver contracts and the houses might face massive losses. Bache was the centre of attention, not just because it was the silver broker for the Hunts, but also because the Hunts owned 450,000 Bache shares and had borrowed from Bache. So worried was the securities and Exchange Commission that the Hunts would dump Bache shares to raise cash and that Bache would be in financial trouble, that it suspended trading in Bache shares for 10 days.

And then Wall Street also feared that to raise cash the Hunts would start selling vast quantities of shares and bonds that they owned and so drive all market prices down. The Hunts did start selling shares and government bonds and the Dow Jones index fell 25 points. But then it recovered as it was realized that not even the Hunts could smash the already depressed markets.

Nobody knows just how wealthy the Hunts are and they are not telling. There have been estimates that the wealth of the Hunt brothers exceeds \$4,000m—far more than is needed to cover losses that could indeed swallow half this sum. The Hunts' problem is raising cash fast.

Michael Leppman writes: Dr Armand Hammer, the chairman of Occidental Petroleum, called a gleeful press conference today to announce that, unlike the Hunt brothers, he had made a profit of \$119m from the fluctuating silver and gold market.

He said that in January and February, when the price of the metal was at its peak, he had made forward contracts for sales now at those high rates.

## £3,000m gas pipeline plan ready

By David Hewson  
Plans for a £3,000m 400-mile gas pipeline serving the North Sea are expected to be submitted to the Department of Energy early next month. The scheme has been drawn up jointly by the British Gas Corporation and Mobil at the department's request.

The Government believes that the amount of gas in at least 12 fields in the North Sea is sufficient to make such a large gathering scheme worthwhile and hopes it can be operating by the mid-1980s.

The pipeline would have two branches, one going south as far as the British National Oil Corporation's 30/17b block, and the other extending north to the Magnus reservoir.

The branches would join close to the Brae field and end at a new pipeline near Peterhead in north-east Scotland, not far from where the existing oil pipeline from the Forth field and two gas lines now lead.

British Gas would extract methane using existing facilities at St. Fergus and the pipeline would travel by pipeline to the chemicals site at the Cromarty Firth.

The new pipeline would complement the planned increase in exploration in the northern part of the North Sea. The seventh round of licences is expected to be announced shortly.

## Ladbroke sells five casinos for £4.4m

By Richard Allen  
Ladbroke, the troubled betting and hotels group, is to sell five of its 11 provincial casinos in a £4.4m deal which could herald a complete withdrawal from the casino industry.

The casinos at Leeds, Birmingham, Bristol, Middlesbrough and Stockport are to be bought by the Reo Stakis Organisation, the Glasgow-based hotels and gambling group, which already runs 12 provincial gaming houses.

Although the Ladbroke Group is still fighting to regain licences for its three major London casinos which were closed down at the end of last year, the group has hinted strongly that it intends to pull out of the industry altogether.

Mr Geoff Spreckley, managing director of the casino subsidiary, said yesterday that talks were under way with other potential buyers for the sale of the remaining six provincial casinos.

"We may be near the point where we feel we have taken quite enough stick over our casino operations," he said. "We owe it to our employees to preserve their jobs and to our shareholders to realize these assets on a going concern basis."

The Gaming Board was expected to have opposed Ladbroke's plan to sell its provincial houses at hearings in May and the Stakis deal is dependent on the authorities allowing these to be transferred.

The five casinos concerned made profits last year of £1.1m, £1.2m, £1.3m, £1.4m or as estimated to have been made by the three Ladbroke London casinos—the Ladbroke Club, Hertford Club and the Park Lane Casino. Ladbroke is appealing against court closures of these clubs after Gaming Board objections mainly concerning incitement of wealthy gamblers away from other casinos.

News of the sale lifted Ladbroke shares 7p to 12p, which is still only around half the level before the casino controversy broke last year.

Yesterday's deal could make Mr Reo Stakis head of Britain's biggest provincial casino operation, taking over from Pleasure House last year chipped in over a third of total profits of £3.5m at Stakis, whose other interests include restaurants, hotels, wines and spirits and operating the Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise.

Returning to the purchase as a "very good deal" last night, Mr F. O'Callaghan, a Stakis director, declared that the budget measures on casino taxation would not dent profits significantly in the smaller provincial clubs.

## Davignon hope on textiles future

A belief that there is a future for Britain's textile industry was expressed yesterday by Viscount Davignon, the EEC Commissioner for Industry.

After visiting two West Yorkshire mills and meeting the action committee formed to fight for the survival of the wool textile and clothing industries, Viscount Davignon referred to the industry's "crump cards".

He said these were the expertise, knowledge and information within the EEC to help the industry stand on its own feet and to overcome its problems.

Mr Basil Young, vice chairman of the action committee, said the meeting had helped to produce better ways of working with the commission.

In presenting its case the action committee stated that the most worrying feature for the two industries was that despite the huge shake-out of jobs since 1964, job losses over the last two years have occurred at an ever-faster rate and had given rise to fears of their future viability. The outlook was bleak.

It pointed out that the problem did not relate only to West Yorkshire but that there was the possibility of a loss of a further 750,000 jobs in textiles and clothing in Europe in the 1980s.

Pay rise agreed: A 14 per cent pay rise has been agreed at Bradford for more than 50,000 wool textile workers mostly in West Yorkshire.

The deal, which was described by the employers' chief negotiator as a "good deal", also gives a further rise for many of the workers by establishing a new wages structure for the industry.

There is also an extra day's holiday and improved night allowances.

## Guide for VAT men gives the game away on what shopkeepers charge

### Secrets of the retail margins are revealed

Insight into one of the ways Customs and Excise officers measure retail profits when in pursuit of value added tax came yesterday when a copy of the guidance to Customs inspectors on average retail markups became public.

## 7 pc cut in export promotion projects

By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

Export trade promotion spending channelled through the British Overseas Trade Board is to be cut by nearly 7 per cent this year, bringing both the overseas projects fund and promotions like trade fairs. Staff cuts of nearly 10 per cent are also being called for by 1982.

The spending reduction, part of the new round of public expenditure cuts, is expected to be followed by further economies in a report on government export promotion services being drawn up by Sir Derek Rayner, joint managing director of Marks & Spencer, who is advising the Prime Minister on waste-cutting in Whitehall.

If, as likely, these additional cuts come into effect this year, the pattern of aid for companies is certain to change radically. The heaviest cuts are likely to affect larger companies because they make smaller contributions to the fund.

Plans are being prepared which would switch the emphasis of aid to the smaller and medium-sized companies.

The board, which in the past year has spent a net £31m, has to find a £2m saving this year because of public expenditure cuts. Half of this is expected to come from increased charges this year for trade fair users and promotions like overseas seminars.

The biggest proportionate cut will be borne by the projects fund. It faces a £500,000 reduction in spending which in the past year amounted to £5m. The fund makes contributions of up to 50 per cent towards companies' pre-contract expenses provided there is at least a £10m benefit directly to the United Kingdom from a contract. Similar, but different, aid is given towards pre-contract consultancy expenses. There is also an intelligence service on contracts likely to be on offer abroad.

There will be a £200,000 cut in trade promotion spending which has been running at £25m a year, with £15m of that going towards aid with trade fairs. Another £200,000 is being saved by moving the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo to an exhibition site with lower rentals.

The board has also been asked to cut 100 staff by 1982 out of its present personnel of nearly 950.

## WANKIE COLLIERY COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated in Zimbabwe Rhodesia)

**DIVIDEND NO. 111**  
The directors today declared an interim dividend No. 111 in respect of the year ending 31st August, 1980 of 4 cents per share, payable to shareholders registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 18th April, 1980. Dividend warrants will be posted on or about 15th May, 1980.

The transfer registers in Zimbabwe Rhodesia, the United Kingdom and South Africa will be closed from 15th to 25th April, 1980, inclusive.

Zimbabwe Rhodesian non-resident shareholders' tax at the rate of 20 per cent will be deducted from the dividend where applicable.

Estimated results for the half year ended 28th February, 1980, and the results for the previous year and corresponding previous half year are as follows:—

	Half-year ended 28.2.80	Half-year ended 28.2.79	Year ended 28.2.79
SALLES	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes
Coal	1,286,872	1,152,710	2,221,104
Coke	125,900	91,302	201,471

	1980	1979	1978
Trading Profit	£800	£900	£400
Net interest and dividends receivable	40M	20M	68M
Profit before taxation	4,209	2,217	4,884
Taxation	1,460	656	1,500
Profit after taxation	2,749	1,561	3,384
Dividend	1,013	760	2,280

Earnings per share ..... 10.35 cents 6.34 cents 13.33 cents  
Dividend per share ..... 4 cents 3 cents 9 cents

This dividend is declared in the currency of Zimbabwe Rhodesia. Payments from the United Kingdom and South Africa will be made in the equivalent of the Zimbabwe Rhodesian value at the rates of exchange ruling at the close of business on 6th May, 1980.

Those shareholders whose dividends have until now been blocked in terms of exchange control regulations are advised that whilst the authorities have relaxed exchange control restrictions on this and future dividends, no decision has yet been made on the release of amounts in respect of dividends previously paid into blocked accounts.

**Comments on Unaudited Financial Results**  
The increase in local prices granted from 1st August, 1979, and better export prices, although eroded by increased costs, are the principal reasons for the improvement in the profit. The higher level of sales and production recoveries also made significant contributions.

The Department of Taxes is seeking to change the basis on which depletion allowance to the company is calculated and a contingent liability resulting therefrom was noted in the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st August, 1979. If the department succeeds in establishing a new basis, the charge for taxation for the half year ended 28th February, 1980, will need to be increased by a further \$35,000.

By order of the Board  
ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION  
OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED  
Secretaries  
Per: J. R. Parker  
Registered Office:  
70 Jameson Avenue Central,  
P.O. Box 1108,  
Salisbury, C4,  
Zimbabwe Rhodesia.  
Office of the United Kingdom  
Transfer Secretaries  
Charter Consolidated Limited,  
P.O. Box 102, Charter House,  
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40 Holborn Viaduct,  
London EC1P 1AJ.  
25th March, 1980



## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Budget grouse

Any improvement in the burden of stamp duty was welcome, but the Chancellor's limited relief has introduced a measure of geographical discrimination which prospective purchasers in at least half the country will find hard to forgive.

By raising the starting point for the tax by only £5,000 to £20,000, the Budget has freed most new home owners in Yorkshire and Humberside, the North-west, East Midlands, Wales (just) and Scotland from the stamp duty net. Buyers living in the West Midlands, East Anglia, the South-west and the South-east, London and Northern Ireland will still have to pay it.

These generalizations are based on the average regional prices shown in *The Times/Halifax* monthly house price index and, while there will be buyers in some of

the more expensive areas who will not necessarily be subject to stamp duty, it will be a lucky couple living in London, the South-east and the South-west who escape paying this levy.

In his Budget speech Sir Geoffrey Howe specifically referred to the hardship at the lower end of the market, particularly for young couples. As it happens, the young couples already hardest hit because of house price inflation are those who live in areas beyond the scope of the modest improvement in stamp duty thresholds. Had the Chancellor lifted the starting point for stamp duty to £25,000, then more young couples putting their foot on the bottom rung of the housing ladder would have been immune. If duty has to stay, at least let it be applied in an equitable way.

## Personal taxation

## Little change for most, but at least the widow benefits

What the Chancellor gave with one hand, he largely took away with the other. The famous Rooker-Wise clause which secured indexation of the main personal allowances in 1978 was implemented in full, but the effect of the 18 per cent increase in tax thresholds was abruptly cut down to size by the abolition of the 25 per cent reduced rate band.

The net result is that tax reliefs in the Budget go up by 11 per cent for married couples and by rather less for single people. Translated into pounds in the pocket, this means that a married couple earning (together or the husband alone) between £3,000 and £10,000 will be £61 a year better off—ie, they will have just over £1 a week extra to spend. This will be quickly absorbed by the extra cost of a bottle of Scotch (duty up 50p) and 10 packets of cigarettes (duty up 3p per packet of 20).

The single taxpayer between the same limits does slightly less well, his or her extra cash amounts to only £25 a year. Later in the year, when the tax-free child benefit is increased from £4 to £4.75, the price of remaining single—in terms of getting married and acquiring the two children beloved of statisticians—will go up. The family man, on average, industrial earnings of over £90 a week, will be £2.46 a week better off in November.

The loss of the 25 per cent

rate band may be regretted by basic rate taxpayers in that its abolition has permanently reduced the base for the future indexation of allowances. But there is evidence that it was not doing its job of easing the lot of the lower paid.

The Inland Revenue, of course, always disliked it because of its administrative inconvenience. That might sound like so much bureaucratic red tape, but it is significant for taxpayers, too. This year, the impact of the changes in allowances will be felt from June pay packets onwards.

The situation was muddled last year because of the change of Government and a second budget, but in the previous "normal" year, 1978, it took the Inland Revenue up to July 12 to implement the new codings.

Other personal allowances, such as those for dependent relatives, or the services of a son or daughter, remain unchanged—as most of them have been for the past decade. (The blind person's allowance was, in fact, increased from £130 to £180 in 1975-76.) This, of course, is in line with the general, long-standing philosophy of simplifying the tax system.

So why, you might ask, did the Chancellor slip a new allowance into the July 12?

The widow's bereavement allowance of £770 maximum answers the plea of women's organizations and others who for years have

complained about the cutoff at death of the married man's personal allowance.

This widow's bereavement allowance effectively takes over when the married man's allowance ceases and is chiefly a transitional relief to enable a widow to adjust to her new financial circumstances. It is apportioned according to a time scale: if the husband dies in April, the widow will receive the full £770, which is reduced by twelfths for each successive month in the year. Pledged at the same rate as the additional personal allowance, it will also be indexed linked.

The higher rate tax bands and the threshold for the investment income surcharge are not included in the original Rooker-Wise indexation clause. This is an omission the Chancellor hopes to make good in his Finance Bill, but to take effect next year, this.

The threshold of the investment income surcharge rises by 10 per cent to £5,500. The new higher rate tax bands have this year also been increased by 10 per cent, which has also the effect of widening the bands. To pay the top whack of 60 per cent, you will need a taxable income of £27,750 next year.

The income "break point" from where husbands and wives should opt for separate taxation—which means they are both taxed as single people—has risen to £16,977, provided that the wife does not earn less than £4,352.

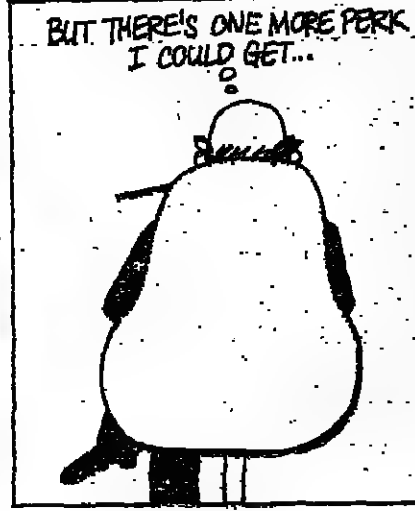
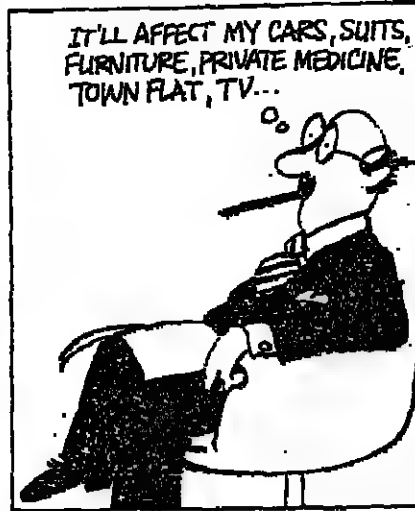
Once more, a government is preparing to tackle the question of taxation of husband and wife. The previous administration was moved by the publication, in December 1977, by the Equal Opportunities Commission of which Sir Geoffrey's wife was then deputy chairman, of a booklet on discrimination against married women in the tax system. In August, 1978, it promised a Green Paper on family taxation, which was overtaken by events.

Although the Revenue has shed much of its misogynist approach, more needs to be done. The Chancellor has now picked up the baton and, although pointing out that "radical changes should not be made in haste", is promising a Green Paper later in the year.

Green Papers, for those who suffer from colour-blindness over government publications, are those inviting debate, criticism and suggestions. So, be prepared.

Margaret Stone

## HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH.



## Budget 1980

A guide to what it means for family finance and action you should be taking now

## Premium bonds

## A big new prize from Ernie

I have long cherished the belief that the Department of National Savings wants to beat the football pools promoters at their own game. The Budget increase in the top premium bond prize from £100,000 to £250,000 confirms this view.

It is a far cry from the £1,000 prize offered when bonds were first issued in 1956, although then, of course, the government had to contend with the disapproval of the anti-gambling brigade.

The new monthly super-prize will be paid in the July draw, so anyone who wants to be eligible that month has only two days in which to buy bonds. Bonds do not become eligible for the draw until three clear calendar months after they have been bought.

Unfortunately, punters will not be able to take advantage of the new increased limit for premium bonds, which from April 21 rises from £3,000 to £10,000.

The new prize structure reflects the 20 per cent increase in the Premium Savings Bond prize fund, which has resulted from an increase in the prize fund interest rate from 5 1/2 per cent to 7 per cent. It is a long overdue increase in the rate and, given the prevailing interest rate climate, by no means a generous one.

Although the Department of National Savings is quite adept at changing the prizes for premium bonds—the £100,000 prize, for example, was introduced only at the beginning of January—it is not as quick off the mark at adjusting the fund's interest rate.

The top football pools payout is now over £900,000, so there is still quite a lot of catching up to do.

MS

After Sir Geoffrey Howe's Budget announcements on Wednesday evening you should be urgently reviewing your financial position. You need to see if there is any action you should take in the short period before the new tax year starts in just over a week on April 6. So here is a checklist of some of the end-of-year items directly affected by the Budget.

First, capital gains tax: for the year 1980-81 up to £3,000 of total net gains during the year will be exempt for individuals. Further gains will be taxed at 30 per cent.

This sweeps away the previous 15 per cent and 30 per cent tax bands on total gains below £5,000. As a result, a few more people than otherwise should consider "bed and breakfast" shares or other investments (ie, selling and repurchasing in order to establish a loss).

This could be worthwhile if you have gains bringing you into the current 15 per cent rate and you are unlikely to generate more than £3,000 of gains next year. Do not forget the cost of this transaction when working out whether it is worthwhile. You may have been holding back hoping that the Budget might eliminate the need for action.

## Unit trusts

If you hold unit trusts or investment trusts, it could be worthwhile bed and breakfasting these before April 6. Unit trusts and investment trusts carry with them a 10 per cent credit on disposals in 1979-80.

From April 6, this tax credit will disappear, because investment trusts and unit trusts will no longer be subject to capital

## Capital taxes

## Simplicity and small gains

The Chancellor did not make any radical changes in capital taxation. Where, before, capital transfer tax was in theory payable on the estate of anyone with assets worth more than £25,000 (though in practice, with exemptions and reliefs, it was payable on much less), this limit has now been raised to £50,000.

The Chancellor himself estimates that roughly two thirds of the estates that would have been liable before will now escape tax altogether.

Mind you, the estate will be taxed almost as heavily as ever, for Sir Geoffrey has not done anything to reduce the top rates of tax (now 75 per cent) or to adjust the rate band on amounts upwards of £50,000. So the starting rate, on a transfer of between £50,000 and £60,000, at death or within three years of death, is 30 per cent, just as it was before, and so on upwards.

All that has happened in these

## Pre-April 6 action

## Use the next few days to the best advantage

gains tax internally on their own funds. So you should consider obtaining your tax credit while you can, unless, of course, it would mean that you slip into the 50 per cent marginal rate band at present charged on net total gains between £5,000 and £9,500.

You would also gain no benefit from bed and breakfasting if you would still only be within the exempt £3,000 element of level. Most unit trust managers charge little for the facility.

## Transfer tax

If you have been waiting for big reductions in capital transfer tax before the asset after say two or three years of using it, he will almost certainly be expected to pay more than the negligible amount often permitted on assets provided before April 6, 1980, or he will be liable to pay tax on the difference between the new higher values at the actual price he pays to his employer.

So, if you were planning to have the use of a company washing machine or a company car, make sure that it is made available for your use from the first time before April 6, so that the old advantageous position still applies.

Earlier this year, in an article on fringe benefits, we discussed the advantages of having the use of your employer's yacht,

television set or even suit of clothes. Although the Chancellor made a small adjustment to the taxability of company cars from 1981-82 (in some cases making the position even more advantageous), he chose to penalize the more exotic loans of company assets.

Thus, after April 5, 1980, if an asset, such as a yacht or item of furniture, is made available to an employee for the first time, the employee will be taxed on 20 per cent of the value when it was first made available, not the previous rate of 10 per cent of that value.

Furthermore, if the employee comes to leave the asset after say two or three years of using it, he will almost certainly be expected to pay more than the negligible amount often permitted on assets provided before April 6, 1980, or he will be liable to pay tax on the difference between the new higher values at the actual price he pays to his employer.

So, if you were planning to have the use of a company washing machine or a company car, make sure that it is made available for your use from the first time before April 6, so that the old advantageous position still applies.

The future of life assurance relief now seems safe, at least for several years. The tax relief

by deduction will stay per cent for 1980-81, be reduced to 15 per cent the year after. This will maintain the traditional citizenship of life assurance to those of a certain age.

If you are thinking of out a policy in the new year you can be reasonably sure that you will obtain the tax relief for years, but premiums before April 6 will give the critically high rate per cent.

The Budget introduced new scale of stamp duty will be charged on transactions of over £15,000, with the rate of 2 per cent on transactions over £35,000. So it is worth waiting until April 5 to complete the purchase of your house.

## Shares

Finally, if you have in a United Kingdom company which is not a Stock Exchange company, you may expect to make a disposal of the shares after April 5. From 1981, you will be able to obtain relief against your income tax on capital gains if you originally bought the shares several years ago.

It is important to the relief does not apply to shares which you bought or were given, also obtain the same relief if you originally bought the shares several years ago.

Danby Bloo  
Raymond G.

## Unit trusts

## Bonus for unithold and fund

The unit trust industry rather surprised the Budget tax relief that was bargained for. Instead, the industry to gilt-edged securities having to pay corporate tax on the income—a plea it has been making for years—was suddenly the burden of capital

From Monday on unit trusts and investors will be exempted from gains tax on gains of up to £1,000, a complicated sliding scale thereafter (gains of between £1,000 and £5,000 were taxed at 15 per cent and gains of between £5,000 and £9,500 at 30 per cent), with a simple exemption on gains of up to £2,000. Thereafter capital gains tax will be levied at the standard rate of 30 per cent.

Finally, he has made one change which was widely expected: he has cut out the double taxation on lifetime gifts, under both CTT and CGT. In future, any capital transfer tax paid on the gift will be treated as expenditure by the person who receives it for the purposes of capital gains tax.

Unitholders and at of investment trust have also been in future capital gains in respect of any p make. But they April 5 to take advantage of the 10 per cent appears for good.

Although it is true holders who regular capital gains of between £5,000 and £9,500 on their units or investment shares will be worse off, the new capital gains tax will be a relief to unitholders who have a straitened position on gains up to £1,000, the vast majority of unitholders will be the better off.

This unexpected should put fund managers' nettle and, it hoped, improve performance which will be a good unitholders. The need to allow for a measure of an improvement in the more important, it is a incentive to management.

Fund managers and recovery funds: particularly benefit changed rules. In the have sometimes felt from switching out of high-yielders which become fliers with lower yield.

An interesting note the Budget was sent to Section 478, starting based on the Islands. Last year Revenue first war across the bows of it saying that it wished the application 478 to them. The five convert inc that investors might liable to income tax returns. However, silence.

Peter Wainwright

## Income bonds

## Dead; but new ones in the pipeline

The Budget axe fell as sharply as expected on short-term income bonds. The Chancellor's proposals effectively take away from these policies—their pre-budget form—their qualification for tax relief. It was thanks to this tax relief in part that companies were able to pay returns of up to 19.5 per cent of basic rate tax on one-year bonds.

Now it is proposed that a policy will not qualify for tax relief if it is connected with another policy where the terms provide benefits which are greater than can reasonably be expected.

This official jargon strikes right at the heart of short-term bonds which were basically made up of two policies. The premium on one-year bonds was split roughly down the middle. One half funded a single premium policy which paid out all the income and was not a business proposition on its own for the issuing life company. The remainder was channelled into an annual premium policy, the sole purpose of which was to make the whole package qualify for life assurance premium relief.

Now companies await the publication of the Finance Bill to establish exactly what the Revenue means by a non-profitable policy and what yardstick it would use to measure this. But they say frankly that one and two-year bonds will not stand the test under any circumstances.

It is also doubtful that the longer four-year bonds written

on the same basis—that is, dependent on tax relief—will emerge with the stamp of approval. So these, too, which were offered by a wider range of companies than the shorter term bonds have also been withdrawn for the time being.

Four-year bonds, which are not dependent on tax relief and therefore offer lower yields, are unaffected by the Budget proposals.

If you joined the last-minute rush to buy the old bonds before the Budget you can take heart from the fact the proposals are not retrospective. But if you left it to the very last moment you have probably missed the boat. It is not clear whether premiums received on Wednesday morning will be caught by the proposals and the Revenue is giving no guidance on this point for the moment, though companies are generally not processing these applications.

Liberty Life, one of the leading exponents of short-term bonds has already announced a new series of bonds to replace those hit by the Chancellor. The new bonds offer 12 per cent, net of basic rate tax, equivalent to 17.4 per cent gross, over three to five years. Each bond comprises a single premium endowment assurance, which repays the original investment at maturity, and a series of single premium pure endowments maturing at yearly intervals, to provide the income.

The reduction in premium relief from 17.5 per cent to 15 per cent next April will in some cases affect the annual returns on the old bonds. Although one-year bond-holders are safe, those with two-year bonds can expect to see a drop of about 1 per cent from April next year. Three and four-year bonds will see smaller falls of about 0.7 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively.

Sylvia Morris

## Self-employed pensions

## More income in retirement

There was quiet celebration on Thursday among partners and the self-employed who have criticized, and with justice, the present legislation which has made it difficult for them to themselves with a reasonable pension.

Now, under the Budget proposals, they will not be at such a disadvantage compared with the director of a family company or, indeed, the employee belonging to a company scheme.

More can be paid towards a self-employed person's pension—for investment in an insurance company's tax-exempt fund—with full relief of income tax.

The contribution limit for those born in 1916 or later is going up from 15 per cent to 17 1/2 per cent of net relevant earnings. The monetary limit of £3,000 in any one year is also being swept away—which means that those with high earnings can put aside the full 17 1/2 per cent.

The meaning of "net relevant earnings" is being altered—so that for most people the contribution is calculated using a larger figure. No longer will personal charges such as mortgage interest or alimony payments be deducted from earnings to arrive at this figure. On the other hand, stock relief will join capital allowances and losses as a deduction.

In the past, within the overall monetary limit, it has been possible to pay premiums for more than the permitted amount in a year (obtaining tax relief on only the appropriate amount), with the right to claim relief on the balance in

future years. That is being changed. Anyone with an accumulated "carry forward" of that kind will get full relief in 1980-81. Irrespective of limits wiping the slate clean.

A new system is being introduced to "carry forward" if the maximum contribution is not made in any one year. The surplus relief which could have been claimed can be carried forward to succeeding years—but not for more than six years. This right to carry forward is being backdated to 1974-75, so that anyone who has not made the full contribution in any of the past few years has the right to catch up.

The maximum premium which can be paid towards life cover with full relief of tax on the premium is staying at 5 per cent of net relevant earnings, subject to a maximum of £1,000 in any one year. This premium still counts towards the overall maximum of 17 1/2 per cent.

Anybody who will not be paying the maximum contribution towards a pension should use this route for providing life cover (up to the age of 75) in view of the full tax relief on the premium, rather than 15 per cent (coming down to 10 per cent next year) for a normal life policy.

An important change in connection with such death benefits (and returns of premium under a pension policy on death) is that they no longer have to be paid into an estate. Dependents can benefit, so that the funds can go straight to children, avoiding any charge to capital transfer tax.

John Drummond

## Investor's week

## Looking for lift-off—later

Impatience makes fools of the best of us, and the important point about this week was not the fall in the FT index from 429.9 to 421.5 but the work the Budget has done to bring the day of a sustained share upswing closer.

We may have to test 350 but I doubt whether we shall stay there long. However, before we see such an upswing we must go down. To reward Browning: The market's way: to rise, it stoops.

This sequence of fall and rise is taking an unconscionable time because the Government, false to its professions, has wasted months in letting government spending stay footloose while shopping interest rates from reaching levels that choke off borrowing.

Now, if the Chancellor's medium-term plan is to be believed, a grip is being taken on state spending while money supply growth is to be halved to 6 per cent in 1983-84.

The strength of the Budget is that it (nearly) dissolves lingering

illusions about the predicament of industry and commerce. Central Statistical Office figures issued just before the Budget indicated how industry had overspent by £4,700m last year. This year the total will be much higher. More than a third of company profits now go in interest charges.

The Chancellor has pointedly refused to help. There is no remission of national insurance contributions and North Sea oil revenue is going to cut government borrowing, not company debts.

Some illusions persist. There are precious few signs of companies setting a fashion in cutting dividends or investment in stocks and plant, and adapt to inflation accounting. BSR, Stone Platt and Weir Group were brave enough recently to chop payouts but this week little Appleyard Group, a BL distributor, looked lonely with a halved final dividend. Only publisher William Collins kept its company. It paid no final

Lucas Industries saw interim profits down by 50 per cent, but up won't the half-time dividend from 2.57p to 2.6p.

Again, up went the dividend by 44 per cent at Reckitt & Coleman's, but profits fell from £61m to £51m, and the group continues to spend more than comes in from cash flow.

So we are not quite at the bottom of this market. Apart from the illusions of company directors, there are illusions of monetarists who really believe that four or five years of squeeze will kill inflation.

Others demur. Even those who do agree with Sir Geoffrey Howe wonder how money supply will in practice be curbed. Personally, I suspect that further curbs on consumption could be in store.

The balance of payments is still too weak. American interest rates continue to rise. Mr Tommy Gore-Browne, of the Government's brokers Mullens, must start issuing more gilt-edged stock at a time when inflation is nearing 20 per cent a year, are standing about.

Other brokers are in no hurry to help Mr Gore-Browne either. Many of them are ending their financial years soon. They want commission on stock to fall into the next tax year, not into this. So they postpone buying gilts for clients for a week or two.

Meanwhile, investment and unit trusts are selling shares now to establish tax losses. From April they will pay no gains tax and they will then have nothing to set losses against.

So the immediate outlook for shares is poor. But only immediate one; it is, as I said to begin with, all a matter of patience.

Peter Wainwright

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK					
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment	
148p	115p	Davis, Godfrey	Rises	20p to 160p	E22m Renault bid
885p	620p	Guinness	107p to 912p	Way clear for Sime bid	
84p	71p	Imperial Grp	5p to 75p	Hoyo bid in doubt	
182p	122p	Ladbroke	5p to 120p	6 casinos sold	
340p	245p	Matthews (b)	10p to 295p	plf up: 100pc scr issue	
90p	64p	Dabenhams	5p to 80p	BAT bid denial	
145p	104p	Hse of Fraser	5p to 127p	Yrs pft fall	
234p	205p	Lucas Inds	15p to 210p	Int pft halved	
410p	314p	Shell Trans	20p to 334p	Petrol Revenue tax up	
328p	266p	Thorn EMI	22p to 280p	Reduced leasing allow	











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